NIAGARA COLLEGE
Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
CENTRE

NIAGARA NEWS

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Students plan to help Queen's Park

By LEE-ANN AYRES
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) plans to raise money to help offset the cost of the damage in the Feb. 7 protest at Queen's Park.

SAC hopes to raise at least $500 in a series of events.

On Feb. 7, about 1,200 university and high school students crashed through barricades and stormed the doors of the legislature. Four students were arrested in the protest.

The perpetrators were Charles Kernernam, 24, Shiraz Rawat, 23, both students at the University of Toronto, and Michelle Vladislavova, 18, and Jesse Black-Allen, 18, who attend a Toronto high school. The four could face charges up to 14 years for "intimidating the legislature."

Police estimate up to $20,000 in damages was done including that to handcrafted iron works, three-century old windows smashed, vandalizing of walls, overturned furniture, damaged office equipment and handcrafted white oak doors.

Bren Biggs, SAC president's campaign *Let's Build Doors to Open Them*, says it will allow post-secondary students at the 25 Ontario community colleges to demonstrate to Premier Mike Harris' government their intent to discuss and find solutions to the cuts and challenges to post-secondary education.

Biggs says she hopes to raise about $500 at Niagara College and wants other colleges to follow suit.

The original plan was to donate $500 to cover the costs. Not all members of SAC agreed with the plan.

Scott Verhoeven, vice-president social affairs, said "it's not up to us to take the students' money to give to the Harris government, especially when they are, quote-unquote, screwing us for tuition." He made his comments at the Feb. 8 SAC meeting.

Biggs said the primary reason for donating the money to replace the doors is to "disalign ourselves" from groups like the one that staged the protest.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) organized last week's protest. The CFS organized a national day of action to protest cuts to post-secondary education and tuition increase.

Simone Saint-Pierre, communications co-ordinator for the CFS, said students are fed up. "Students have had to quit school due to the 20 per cent (tuition) increase.

"He (Harris) is doing violence so he should expect violence."

Niagara College is not a member of the CFS for several reasons, says Biggs. The group's focus is mostly on universities.

Another reason is cost as the CFS charges $14 a student for membership whereas Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA), to which the college belongs, charges 65 cents a student, says Biggs.

One of the biggest reasons, Biggs says, "we aren't a member of CFS because they have a history of confrontational behavior and that behavior just hinders those students that are trying to make progress."

Niagara's curling team takes home the gold

By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

A gold medal performance at a recent curling championship means the Niagara College curling team is a step closer to provincial glory.

Coach Bryan Nagy said Niagara's mixed curling team had "a pretty good chance" of getting to the provincial championships and he was right.

"I'm very pleased with the team. They really came together to win," said Nagy.

Niagara sent a mixed team to the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) regional curling championship qualifications held at Durham College in Oshawa and came back with a gold medal and trophy for the western division.

In the first game, Niagara beat Hamilton's Mohawk College 10-6.

In the second game, Niagara beat North York's Seneca College 11-7.

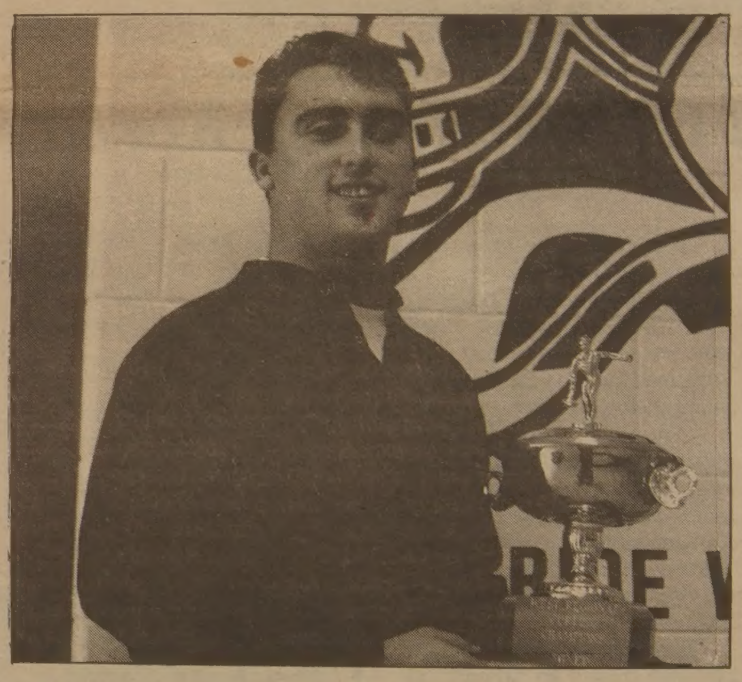
It was "definitely a team effort. We progressed every game," said Scott Banner, a first-year Recreation Leadership program student and the team's skip.

This year all four players were new to the mixed team. Team members included Banner (skip), Katherine Peter (vice-skip), Terry Fleury (second vice) and Jen Cadman (lead).

"I think we're favorites to win it (the provincial championship). We are right up there with other good teams. We're confident," said Banner.

The next step for Niagara is the provincial OCAA championships held Friday, Feb. 23 and Saturday, Feb. 25 at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

"I think they've got a good chance to win the provincials," said Nagy.



Scott Banner, of Niagara College's mixed curling team.
Photo by Jason Chase

Students to pay for new technology through fee hikes

By LEE-ANN AYRES
Staff Writer

Brace yourself — your tuition is going up.

Student Administrative Council (SAC) approved a Student Technology Enhancement Fee at the Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 6.

The fee is expected to take effect in September. The revenue raised will be used to replace out-dated technology and provide newer technology.

"I think we've done a good enough job covering our butts and it will be a very good thing for students," says Mark McNiven, SAC executive vice-president.

The fee will cost full-time students $35 a semester.

Bren Biggs, SAC president, says when "you break it down," it only costs each student $2.19 a week.

The board of directors also implemented a Student Technology Enhancement Committee to make recommendations about the fee.

The committee will include a chair appointed by SAC, three members appointed by SAC, the college's vice-president academic, the director of Access and Student Success, and the chair of Instructional Information Technology Committee.

All equipment and technology purchased will be property of SAC.

Biggs said she hopes that outdated equipment could be auctioned off or leased to students.

Guess who's in the SAC

By LEE-ANN AYRES
Staff Writer

SAC's three newest members got their feet wet and took command of their new roles.

Student Administrative Council (SAC) held its first meeting with a new executive and a new meeting time at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 8.

Melody Mayville, vice-president external affairs, replaced Mike Matowski, Amanda Cheevers, vice-president athletics, replaced Lyndon Johnston, and Kyle Anderson, vice-president internal, replacing Mark McNiven who assumed the role of executive vice-president previously held by Paula Dempsey.

At SAC this week:

•An open meeting for satellite campus students was held three weeks ago at the SAC Welland office. A small number of students attended to express their concerns and ideas. McNiven said the meeting structure was "better than previous years."

SAC plans to fax copies of all the meetings' minutes as well as a list of upcoming events.

•SAC has decided to stop showing movies in the Hamilton Room next year because the Criterion Pictures license fee of $1,725 is not feasible.

New student rep needed

By TERESA ARMSTRONG
Staff Writer

Now's your chance to be a member of the Niagara College Board of Governors.

Three positions are available on the board including an administration member, a support staff member and a student representative.

Nominations were being accepted at H4 (Welland campus) until Wednesday, campaigning begins Monday, and voting on March 4, 5, and 6, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Votes will be counted March 7.

The board's role is to establish the college's purpose, direction and policies, ensure efficient management, and promote effective communication within the college community.

The student governor's term begins Sept. 1, 1996, and finishes Aug. 31, 1997. The term for the administration and support board members begins Sept. 1, 1996, and finishes Aug. 31, 1999.

Voting booths and voters' lists will be located at the cafeteria, ME100 and H21 at the Welland campus; at the Horticultural Centre and the Mack Nursing Centre in St. Catharines; the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls; and the main office (second floor) at the St. Catharines campus.

CAMPUS PROFILES

Ex-IBM employee to graduate in June

By TRACY LAPRISE
Staff Writer

Junko Onishi, 30, of Japan, is a graduate of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

Onishi is in the Office Administration program and says she hopes to graduate in June.

Onishi says before she came to Canada, she was working in Japan at International Business Machines (IBM).

She says her main purpose is in coming to Canada is to learn the English language. IBM paid her tuition to come to study at Niagara College. She pays her own expenses from a summer job working at the Renaissance Hotel Falls View in Niagara Falls.

She says she didn't make the decision to attend Niagara College until the last minute. She prepared herself by reading the Niagara College guide, applied for a visa and attended an English conversation school which taught her a little bit of English.

She says she decided to quit IBM to come to Canada and regretted the decision for a while.

"I don't regret it anymore because I can work in Canada," says Onishi.

Onishi says when she told her parents, they were upset but they understood why.

"My parents couldn't believe I was going to college because of my age," says Onishi.

Onishi has gone back to Japan twice to visit her friends and family.

She left a boyfriend behind. He was going to wait for her to return to Japan after she completed her studies. After eight months, Onishi went back to Japan and decided to end the relationship.

"I heard from my friends that he is married," says Onishi.

She met her current boyfriend at Niagara College but he is attending Brock University.

"It seems like I lost a lot of my friends when I came to Canada," says Onishi.

"With some of my friends we used to write a letters once or twice a week, but they don't write anymore," she says. She sends Christmas and birthday cards to her friends and family.

She has a brother, Yuko, and sister, Takeshi. Her sister is married and went to school to learn English. Her sister and her brother-in-law went to the United States where he received his pilot's license. After he received his pilot's license they went back to Korea so he could find work.

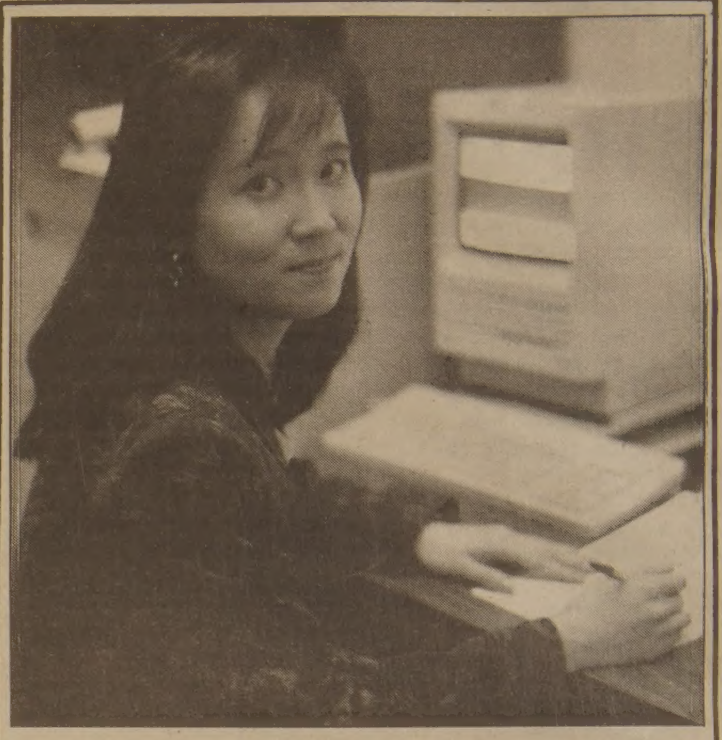
Onishi's parents came to Canada once to visit her. She says they really enjoyed Niagara Falls.

"My brother isn't married and I don't think he wants to learn the English language," says Onishi.

She says there have been times when she wanted to move back to Japan because she missed her parents.

When she graduates in June, she would like to find work in Canada.

"I think the students that are in the ESL program should study hard but at the same time, enjoy what they're doing. The students shouldn't shy away from learning the English language," says Onishi.



Junko Onishi, a graduate of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, works at her computer. Onishi is in the Office Administration program.

Photo By Tracy Laprise

Movies and television help Korean student learn English

By RON WOLF
Staff Writer

A 25-year-old Korean student is attending Niagara College to see how Canadians live.

Hyojeong Kim is a first-year Journalism-Print program student.

Her Christian name is Stella, which her friends call her.

She was born in the southern province of Masan and came to Welland last June.

"I wanted to see the people who speak English and get to know the (Canadian) culture," she said, adding she wanted first-hand experience in speaking English since no one in Korea could tell her if her English was good or bad.

"I wanted a place (to live) where not many Koreans lived, but not a big city and not that cold," said Stella.

Winters are mild in Korea with little snow, she said.

Stella said her sister, Soojeong Kim, 27, is married and has kept her maiden name because of Korean tradition.

She said her childhood was not a traditional Korean one.

"My family is on the way to the Western ways because we have extended and nuclear families."

Kim said nuclear families consist of parents and children where as extended families consist of grandparents.

"It's on the way to nuclear families," she said.

Kim said her childhood memories were bad because when she was seven, her parents were divorced for two years, but later remarried each other.

"My mother owns her own business and my father quit his job to help her out because her business is getting bigger."

Kim said her mother makes clothes for the dead to wear.

"It's traditional clothes. All white for funerals."

Kim said her mother makes enough money to support the family.

"My mom is the boss."

Kim said she studied French in university while in Korea.

"I worked for a private language institute for 14 months where I taught basic English to Korean students.

"I learned my English by imitating the movies and educational programs on television. I practiced by myself in front of the mirror.

"I feel I'm learning a lot about Canadian culture and the English language."

Kim said she has met new friends from Mexico, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Libya and Canada since her arrival on June 2, 1995.

Kim said her parents were in favor of her coming to Canada.

"I don't know why because when I was at university I tried to go to France to practice my French, but they didn't allow me to go.

"They thought I was too young to go there by myself. I don't know why. They just said yes to Canada."

"I miss my family a lot, especially my two nieces. The little one is only three-weeks-old."

Kim said it costs her about $1,300 for return airfare to Korea to visit her parents. A 10-minute telephone call costs $20.

Kim has been to Korean restaurants in Niagara Falls, Ont. and Toronto.

"It (the food) is not that tasty and it's expensive.

"The vegetables here are really different than in Korea. They're smaller."

Hyojeong Stella Kim, a Journalism-Print program student from Korea, is one of many first-year students at Niagara College.

Photo by Ron Wolf

Kim said she has no favorite Korean foods, but does have some favorite Canadian dishes.

"I like chocolate, celery with Ceasar dressing, spaghetti with big meatballs."

She said her favorite literature consists of true stories, French poetry, and self-help books.

"I'm reading a Canadian book about aboriginal life. It's good."

Kim said she studied the theory and history of film at university in Korea.

Meg Ryan, Robert DeNiro, Jody Foster are big actors in Korea who happen to be her favorite movie actors, she said.

Kim said Koreans like Canadians more than Americans because of what Americans did to Koreans.

"They (American soldiers) have been making a lot of problems (for Koreans)."

Kim said in the Korean War, American soldiers raped and sometimes killed Koreans "and at times it still occurs.

"Koreans don't know much about Canadians, but we do know Canada is clean and a neat place.

"They imagine Canada has a lot of beautiful scenery and they recycle everything and Canadians are really nice people."

*NIAGARA COLLEGE EXPERIENCING RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS

CAMPUS

*PETER KORMOS TO RUN FOR NDP LEADERSHIP

Record enrolment at Niagara College

By MARK FERENCE and BRIAN BOWMAN
Staff Writers

Faced with hard economic times, Niagara College continues to grow — setting new enrolment numbers.

The college reached enrolment highs, including a 24 per cent increase in January Start students compared to last January.

"We're very excited about the number of students turning towards college to continue their education," said Al Vaughn, college registrar.

In January 1996, 620 students started at Niagara compared to 501 last January.

This increase brings total enrolment to 4,894 full-time students, a 4.6 per cent increase over last year's figures.

Since 1990, college enrolment has grown 64 per cent — an average annual growth rate of 8.8 per cent.

The January Start programs are becoming "very popular," said Vaughan.

The college has 30 programs offered for January entry, compared to just seven in 1994.

The growth can be attributed to a number of items, including the implementation of a new trend in post-secondary education — developing short-term programs aimed at the needs of today's ever-changing workforce.

Vaughn said he has seen a steady correlation between rising unemployment rates and older students returning to college to upgrade their skills.

"The job market is a lot different now than it was just a few years ago," he said. "Employers are asking for more and more education from their employees. People are realizing a need to increase their knowledge and skills — they don't want to continue to lose jobs."

The college has developed new programs specifically designed to appease to an economy driven by technological advancement in the workforce, said Vaughan.

"The average age of students, based on figures from the 1995 fall term, was 26 years," he said. "Many of those are people who have lost their jobs, and realized the need to become more advanced in jobs which require the use of technology and computers. We made a significant increase in our technology programs," he said, explaining the college refers to such courses as Advanced Studies programs.

Once such program is Call Centre Management, a one-year certificate program which prepares graduates for careers as call centre managers.

Curriculum was specifically developed as a result of feedback from area call centre representatives to adhere to demands in the call centre environment.

Danielle Brown, co-ordinator for the program, said "leaders in the community are constantly advising here about the changes in business," which helps guide the program to better prepare students for the workforce.

"Technology is constantly progressing" and that new technology in a driving economy has made the jobs more technical, said Vaughan.

"We're seeing more applicants with university degrees and college diplomas. They're taking their general education and specializing even further. Students have realized the need to upgrade."

Videos can help

By PAULINE POSTILL
Staff Writer

Here's an opportunity for students to gain more self-confidence when making an individual or group presentation in class.

The Welland Learning Resource Centre (LRC) has a video collection available to students for the purpose of enhancing individual or group projects.

"Using videos is a good way to enhance presentations and getting the class involved in understanding or debating the subject," said Trish Labonte, head librarian at the Welland campus.

"Each Niagara College campus has a video collection in the LRC which reflects on programs taught at that location."

There are many topics to chose from the video collection such as health and medical issues, interaction with people with physical disabilities, job search skills and medieval history.

If students wish to use a video for a presentation they must check with their teacher before making arrangements, and can ask the library staff for assistance.

Teachers will be required to sign two loan cards, one to reserve the video and one to reserve the equipment.

"Students are welcome to preview the videos in the library in the individual viewing area before making their presentation," said Labonte.

"The videos are available for campus use only, and are not licensed for home use," added Labonte.

Harris cuts hurt morale

By LAURY REID
Staff Writer

Ontario Premier Mike Harris is cutting more than just spending — he's cutting into the morale of early childhood educators.

"It's so uncertain what he (Harris) is going to do," said Lil Flora, 20, a second-year Early Childhood Education (ECE) student at Niagara College. She said she thinks early childhood educators will have a hard time getting jobs in Canada in the future.

The Tories' $800 million in spending cuts announced on Nov. 27, 1995, included the withdrawal of the Wage Enhancement Grant which provided a subsidy for early childhood educators' wages. Without this subsidy, their annual wages decreased by about $8,000.

Tina Laprise, 25, a former graduate of the ECE program at Niagara and a sociology major at Brock University, said she thinks private-home day care will be the way to go.

"I believe day cares will no longer be funded by the government and people will go through their homes," said Laprise, who supplied for the Niagara College and YMCA day-care centres before deciding to continue with her schooling because of low pay.

Laprise, who is assistant manager of Suzy Shier at the Seaway Mall in Welland, said all that the programs at university and colleges do is give you a setting to learn in and a background for what you need to know, but it's up to the individual to get a good name for themselves in order to make money.

Flora said she thinks she'll have a better chance for employment if she continues on with her education when she graduates from the ECE program.

She said she is looking towards the Educational Resources and Special Needs program offered at Niagara College.

"I think there's more of a need for teachers working with special children," said Flora. "That's what I like — the one on one, the challenge."

Corrections

It is a newspaper's worst fear — errors of fact.

In last week's edition, Vol. 26, No. 10, we had an incorrect quote in a Page 1 story. In the story headlined "New president, new changes," Rick Bassett, a member of Niagara College's board of governors, was incorrectly identified as saying President Dan Patterson "has introduced a tremendous amount of change."

The quote was actually said by Patterson.

Also on Page 1, we misspelled the word Entrepreneurship in a headline.

As well on Page 1, we identified Kyle Anderson as vice-president external affairs, in fact, Anderson is the vice-president of internal affairs of Student Administrative Council.

On Page 5, the photographs of Tracy Laprise and Celeste Distefano were switched.

In the Vol. 26, No. 9 edition, we misidentified a service available at the Learning Resource Centre at the Welland campus. The correct service is called EBSCOhost.

In a Page 2 story, we misspelled Adam Kieswetter's name.

We apologize for the error.

It is the Niagara News' policy to correct errors of fact.

Mid-term exam help available

By LEE-ANN AYRES
Staff Writer

Add one part pressure from mid-term exams plus the factor you don't understand the subject matter — sounds like the perfect equation for a stressed out student. The solution — peer tutoring services.

Peer tutoring is a free service to Niagara College students who need help with courses.

Students work one on one or in a group to figure out difficulties and develop good study habits.

"The idea of the program is to get students on their feet and to get them going in the right direction," says Pat Cicci, peer services officer.

The students are matched with a tutor. The two meet during their spares and no travelling is involved.

In the first five weeks of the second semester Cicci says about 70 students came for assistance.

The service in non-committable. Students can come in for a few sessions and then quit while some may need help over an extended period of time.

Students who have an 80 per cent academic average or higher can apply to be a tutor. Tutors are paid $7 a period.

Students needing tutoring or tutors can sign up at the Peer Services Offices in the back of the Learning Resource Center at the Welland Campus. The office is open Tuesday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to noon. The office is closed Mondays.

Students needing further information can visit the office or call Cicci at extension 7769.

At the satellite campuses students can go to the counselling office.

Chiki's responsibilities extended

Named Director of Access and Student Success

By KATHLEEN FERRIS
Staff Writer

On Feb. 1, Brigitte Chiki added new responsibilities to her current portfolio.

Chiki will take on a mixture of additional services and programs under her new title as Director of Access and Student Success at Niagara College.

Her appointment is part of the college's re-organization with the Community and Learner Services Division under Vice-President Carol Boettcher.

Asked for her reaction to her new position, Chiki said, "It's a big change and like most people's normal reaction to change, there's a mixture of emotions that's experienced when something like this happens and "excited" is just one of them."

Chiki will continue in her present position as Director of the Student Life and Success Division. Her job description will extend to taking on the Aboriginal Education Access office, Academic Upgrading and College Entry programs which include Basic Training for Skill Development, General Arts and Science, Health Science Preparatory and Ontario Basic Skills.

She'll also be responsible for athletics and recreation, counselling and health services, employment services and student government liaison.

The transfer of responsibilities may occur later than Feb. 1 in some programs and services because of timelines.

"I expect by September everyone affected by the new organization will be comfortably settled into their new positions and offices," said Chiki.

It's expected Chiki's office will be relocated centrally at Niagara College's Welland campus, making her accessible to everyone needing information.

"It's important that the office of the director be accessible," said Chiki.

Regarding her new involvement with Employment Services and the re-location of her office, Chiki said, "My understanding of Employment Services is that it's very self-sufficient and they (the staff) may not need a manager within the office, and as long as I'm nearby I'm sure it will meet their needs."

Changes and improvements in Employment Services are a result of staff and students' suggestions.

"That's typically how change happens around here. It's usually a collaborative effort," said Chiki.

Employment Services, as a unit, "has willingly adopted a continuous improvement model of service delivery and, as a result, they're always looking for areas that need improvement and working towards that improvement."

No big changes are anticipated, said Chiki.

Chiki was a part-time student at Niagara College for eight years, graduating in 1994 from the college with a certificate in Management of Human Resources.

She is a Master of Education student at St. Catharines' Brock University working on her thesis specializing in educational administration.

Chiki's philosophy of the administration/student relationship is that it is "definitely a two-way partnership and we both need to put forth a 100 per cent effort to make it work."

Niagara College's Director of Access and Student Success, Brigitte Chiki talks on the telephone in her office at ME103 at the Welland campus.

Photo by Kathleen Ferris

College alumni runs for NDP leadership

Peter Kormos wants to restore 'partnership with labor'

By JOHN ROUSSEL
Staff Writer

Peter Kormos, MPP for Welland-Thorold, has officially announced his candidacy to run for leader of the provincial New Democratic Party (NDP).

The Niagara College graduate said he wants to turn away from the Bob Rae's "centrist" approach and restore "partnership with labor."

Kormos graduated from the Social Services program at the college in the early 1970s.

The former provincial minister of financial institutions and consumer and commercial relations is thankful to the college staff who were here. In particular, he remembers George Repar, who remains at the college in administration, but was a young teacher when he attended the college.

Kormos said did not have a high school diploma because he was expelled and "never let back," so he took first-year college courses through night school.

With the help of his teachers, he was allowed to take second-year courses as a full-time student.

Kormos said at the time the college was still young and the courses were just being developed.

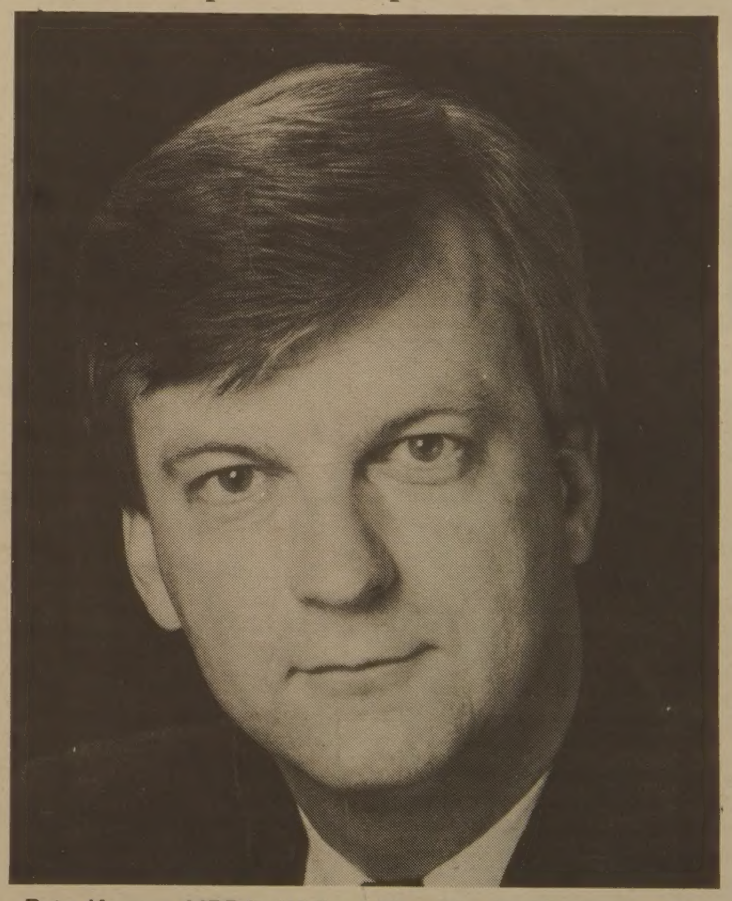
On top of regular classes, he took a law clerk course in night school and he then decided he wanted to "keep people out of jail." He went to York University in Toronto to receive his law degree.

Niagara College has a "big place in my heart," but "the college is diminished," he said. Programs like theatre arts, which don't exist at the college anymore, "nurtured my passions for social issues.

"If we don't provide this generation with education we are short changing the province and them (students)," he said.

The cutbacks by the Conservative government are "tragic" and not supporting the college is "the height of stupidity."

Kormos said the college is "a very important learning institution."



Peter Kormos, MPP for Welland-Thorold, recently announced candidacy for the leadership of the NDP.

Photo Submitted

Police college looking for LASA students

By PATTY MALLAIS
Staff Writer

The police are on the lookout for 24 Law and Security Administration (LASA) program students.

In a letter received by Heather Hodgson, co-ordinator of LASA, the Ontario Police College has requested the assistance of some Niagara College LASA students.

On Monday Feb. 19, 24 community policing program students will go to the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ont., where they will assist in an investigative interviewing practical exercise.

The students volunteering for this trip must have been at one time a victim or witness of an actual crime.

The police college will provide food and accommodations for the LASA students for their overnight stay before returning home.

Some second-year security operations management students will be returning to the police college in the spring for two weeks where the students will compare the differences between police and security procedures, go to classes and perform procedures with police recruits.

Break and enter in Port Colborne

CRIME STOPPERS OF NIAGARA
1-800-263-TIPS

Residential break and enter is a very serious crime and this week Crime Stoppers is asking for the public's assistance to help solve a Port Colborne case.

Some time between Thursday, Nov. 9, and Saturday, Nov. 11, 1995, thieves forcibly entered a cottage on Firelane #10 by smashing a window and climbing in. Once inside the home, the culprits ransacked the premises searching for valuables. The thieves subsequently removed over $2,500 in property before making their escape.

The list of stolen articles includes a large quantity of liquor, a stereo, a VCR, a Canon 35 mm instant camera, cordless tools and various other items.

If you have information regarding this break and enter, or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477, that's 1-800-AND-TIPS, to be eligible for a cash reward up to $1,000. In all cases, you will not have to reveal your identity.

The Niagara Regional Police in co-operation with Crime Stoppers Niagara Inc. writes this column to help combat crime. A citizen board administers the local program. Reward money is raised though tax-deductible donations and cheques may be sent to Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., P.O. Box 1086, St. Catharines, Ont., L2R 7A3.

Employment Services' friendly faces

By KATHLEEN FERRIS
Staff Writer

There's a world of knowledge beyond the doors of Simcoe 101.

Employment Services employees at Niagara College's Welland campus are ready to assist you.

Nancy Avolio has been a part-time employee for about two years with information services at Employment Services.

Avolio describes her responsibilities as being the "keeper of the database." She compiles information from registration forms on when students find employment and inputs the results into the student and employer database.

Information is gathered for the purpose of the "work term stats report" at the end of each term and is distributed to co-ordinators, directors and the president.

Avolio also provides backup for Holly Gennings at the office's reception desk.

"I ensure that the employer evaluation forms have been sent back to my department and occasionally I'm needed to discuss the results with the students," said Avolio.

Gennings has been a full-time secretary at Employment Services for about two years.

Back row (left): Heather Smith, Kathryn Davis, Holly Gennings, Nancy Avolio and Wayne Sadlak. Front row (left): Janet Forfar, Monique Morin and Jean Brodie.

Photo by Kathleen Ferris

Gennings is responsible for providing and processing resume and faxing services for students. She also generates co-op positions and procedures to be followed for students to apply.

Gennings also assists with the career services aspect of Employment Services. "Primarily, I assist Janet Forfar, career services officer, in forwarding graduate resumes for full-time positions, generating postings in the database, keeping the part-time and summer job boards up to date and helping with application procedures," said Gennings.

Gennings also does secretarial duties that the consultants at Employment Services require and any general reception duties such as answering the telephone and booking appointments for students.

She's able to assist by answering questions, connecting students to the proper consultants and giving students general company directions for interviews.

Co-operative Education Consultant Jean Brodie has been employed at Employment Services for about nine years.

She contacts businesses and industries for the second and third-year students. The two eight-month work terms are for six of the college's engineering/technology programs; computer, electrical, electronics, micro-electronics, manufacturing and mechanical.

"Because they're four year programs, I get to know the students very well." Resume development, future careers, salary prospects, and occupational clusters are examples of what she discusses with the students.

Brodie says she assists the co-op students by, "giving them an opportunity to make excellent contacts in business and industries."

"Because I teach a career development class I assist them with their self-confidence and with the possibility through co-op placements for full-time employment after graduation."

Also, because co-op employers sometimes request students during the academic year for part-time work opportunities, she has contacts for students in those areas.

Forfar has been employed as career services officer at Employment Services for about five years.

Forfar provides assistance in graduate employment for both students and potential employers.

"I assist the students in preparing them to enter the job market after graduation," said Forfar.

She also assists them on an individual basis by offering advice on job search activities and mock interviews.

She provides classroom workshops for co-op and non co-op programs relating to job search skills for all programs at all of the Niagara College campuses.

She works with employers to encourage them to hire graduate students and to arrange interviews for the students.

Forfar also compiles graduate statistics for the government and college and looks after the part-time and summer postings that come through her department.

Co-operative Education Consultant Wayne Sadlak has been employed at Employment Services for about four years.

Sadlak was also a consultant for five years with the Futures program, a youth employment program administered through Niagara College.

He teaches a career development course to students in the Human Resource and Operation Management programs.

Guest speakers are invited from the job field and students are assisted with interview skills and job maintenance types of exercises.

He also assists students with resume preparation, cover letters and other job search correspondence.

Kathryn Davis has been a co-operative education consultant at Employment Services since July 1995.

She was employed for five years as an employment counsellor for projects sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada, formerly the Canada Employment Centre.

She provides co-op services to the Office Administration Executive program and the Legal Assistant/Law Clerk program.

Primarily Davis' duties include facilitating career planning and development classes, developing job postings and monitoring work placements for the above programs.

"My role overall is to ease students' transition from college to the workplace and to offer support to students while they're out on placement," said Davis.

"Also, (I) provide additional assistance to students by making myself available for personal appointments regarding any questions and concerns that students may have about a wide range of topics."

Co-operative Education Consultant Monique Morin has been employed at Employment Services since August 1995.

Morin communicates with employers and assists with job placements for students in the Marketing program and the post-diploma International Trade program, which has an internship, but isn't an official co-op program.

She spends one hour weekly teaching a career development class to marketing students and also makes on-site visits to the student co-op placements to ensure their duties relate to what they're studying.

"I also assist with sourcing and identifying job leads for students and helping them develop their own job leads," said Morin.

Heather Smith has been a co-operative education consultant at Employment Services since August 1995.

She was formerly employed for nine years with Jobs Ontario and Futures through Employment Services.

Her position requires her to monitor the paid co-op placements in the Business Administration Accounting BA, three-year program and the Business Accounting two-year program.

The full-time co-op placements for 1995 September-start students in both programs are from May to August 1996.

Part-time placements and special short-term work projects can be made available from September to April.

"There's the potential for co-op opportunity almost on a year-round basis," said Smith.

Smith facilitates in career development groups and meets with students individually to help with their job search.

"I also help establish job leads and, in turn, job postings for co-op students and promote the program to other colleges' departments and the community at large."

"Co-op students are assisted through one-on-one meetings, which are the focus right now, helping guide students through the process of job search and security."

Visiting Employment Services could provide answers to meet students' wide range of questions.

To make an appointment, contact any of the employees of Employment Services:

Nancy Avolio	**Ext. 7588**
Holly Gennings	**Ext. 7777**
Jean Brodie	**Ext. 7743**
Janet Forfar	**Ext. 7787**
Wayne Sadlak	**Ext. 7747**
Kathryn Davis	**Ext. 7797**
Monique Morin	**Ext. 7790**
Heather Smith	**Ext. 7788**

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

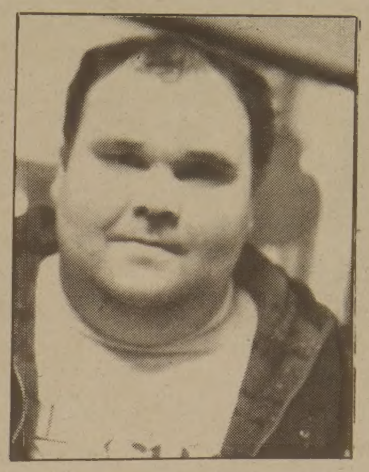
What do you like or dislike about the college?

TRINA CHISHOLM

By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr. and MILAN DURCO
Staff Writers

Hamilton native Trina Chisholm, 19, said she likes the campus, the pub, and the people in the college.

As for what she dislikes, the Legal Assistant program student, said "I hate 8:30 a.m. classes."



JEFF DOAN

"The damn schedule which leaves too many hours in between," was the answer from Jeff Doan, 22, who lives in Port Colborne.

The General Arts program student, said "I love all the young ladies around here, and that I'm going to be out in two years."

MARY CARLESSO

"The filthy atmosphere, dust everywhere and the ripped curtains," said Mary Carlesso, 20, — speaking for a group of students from the Business Administration Operations Management program.

The Niagara Falls resident says some facilities are really poor and need to be updated.

"Don't retire Mr. Z," was the cry heard from the students.

DAYNA BRANDT

Dayna Brandt, 21, from the Legal Assistant program, said she doesn't "like the co-op department because they do nothing for the $300 you give them per term."

The Welland resident said she doesn't like the school, but the program is "the best around" and so she'll take the good with the bad.

EDINA VANBUSSEL

"The administration building gives you the run around, you never get a straight answer for what you've asked," said Edina Vanbussel, 32, of St. Catharines, from the Social Service program.

"I don't like the cuts to the college because it interferes with our education."

Celebrating Ontario's history

By NETHA NEVERSON
Staff Writer

It's a celebration of history.

February is Heritage Month, along with Black History Month.

Tony Whelan, co-ordinator of the Niagara Heritage Showcase, said the showcase will give people some ideas about history.

The month has been designated by the province. The third week of February is Heritage week and the Monday of that week is Heritage Day.

In 1988, the Ontario Historical Society along with the Ontario Ministry of Culture organized the first provincewide Heritage Showcase. Fourteen centres were selected across Ontario in libraries, malls, community centres and museums.

Only one of those centres in each area will participate as host, inviting the local historical, genealogical, and museum groups to celebrate Heritage Month with displays, exhibits, demonstrations, and programs. There are more than 500 exhibits at 14 locations.

This year, the Niagara Region will boast some 57 invitations to an encompassing variety of preservation groups from all corners of the region.

There will be lots of historical treasures, such as, spinning wheels, quilt loom, period wooden tools, history of the telephone, (phones from earlier times will be on display), canal systems, rug hooking and butter making along with many other things.

Historical and genealogical publications will be available as well as members of Niagara's heritage in Native and Black history. Many of the participants will be in period dress.

Whelan said it will be"more of a celebration than a show," there will be guessing games and dancing. "I promise something of interest to everyone." The Long House Natives of Fort Erie are putting on a friendship dance. A re-enactment by McDonell's Co., of Butler's Rangers (circa 1780s) will be on.

A challenge will be made to the MPP who will be in attendance. You will see a lady who spins dog hair, don't worry the hair is not on the dog and no dog was hurt to get the hair.

You can learn how the Blacks came to Canada to escape slavery under the underground railroad. A lady will be telling her story about when she was a slave and how she came to Canada.

The celebration begins Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At 2 p.m. there will be a ceremony taking place in the center court where the provincial, regional, and local dignitaries are acknowledged.

The celebration will be held at the Pelham Public Library. Admission is free.

Big Brothers are coming

By LEAH LAPRISE
Staff Writer

Big Brothers wants you, and they're coming to the college to get you.

"We want to get our message out to the student population," says Greg Whelan, executive director of Big Brothers of South Niagara Inc.

He says Big Brothers will be coming to all three campuses of Niagara College to talk to students about the Big Brothers program.

Whelan says he would like to dispel some of the myths people have about being a Big Brother, such as it costs a lot of money, and the children are difficult.

He says he would also like to speak to students about other ways of helping, such as raising funds, or sitting on the board of directors, and also how volunteer experience can help on a resume.

"Show up and ask questions," says Willard Wright, a professor in the Human Relations program and a member on the Big Brothers board of directors.

"There are lots of little brothers out there that need an older guy that they can look up to and who don't really have a man in their life. They need an older male that they can pattern off," he says.

Wright says being a Big Brother requires only one or two hours a week, and both brothers gain from the experience.

Big Brothers will be recruiting "mostly males," says Whelan. They will be at the Welland campus on Monday, Feb. 19, in room S105B, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

They will be in St. Catharines at the Wellandvale campus on Monday, Feb. 19 at 11:30 a.m. in room 317.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, Big Brothers will be in Niagara Falls at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre at 11:30 a.m.. in the conference room.

"It's a nice feeling when a lad at the college here can help a kid," says Wright. "It makes you feel good."

Local organizations calling out for volunteers

By MELISSA REID
Staff Writer

Volunteers are needed at many organizations around the Welland area.

The Canadian Cancer Society is looking for people to sell live daffodils and fabric boutonnieres to raise money for cancer research. This campaign takes place March 28 to 30.

Volunteers will be selling daffodils and boutonnieres for two-hour periods to be scheduled during business hours of local stores.

The Cancer Society's goal for Welland is $7,100 for the selling of both live plants and boutonnieres. The goal for the Port Colborne area is $6,600.

A residential campaign for the entire month of April is also planned. This campaign needs volunteers to go door to door collecting donations for the society.

Volunteers will be given a flexible schedule, identification and a receipt book. The Cancer Society will try to arrange that volunteers campaign in their own neighborhoods.

The goal for Welland in this campaign is $38,000. The goal for Port Colborne is $34,600.

The city of Welland is trying to rebuild its residential campaign so volunteers are greatly needed. To volunteer call Donna Seefeldt at 892-2802 or the Canadian Cancer Society at 732-3770.

Donna Seefeldt, 50, a volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society, said she is surprised that retirees show a lack of interest.

Seefeldt, a former grade school teacher, said some retirees are willing to give back to the community through volunteer work.

She also said the volunteers are difficult to find because people are going back to work.

The Welland branch of the Canadian Red Cross is always looking for volunteers because the volunteers run the majority of the programs.

The Red Cross offers a variety of programs to the community including; Blood Services, International Services, Tracing and Reunion, creations, emergency services, first aid courses, homemakers services, Seniors' Services, Sickroom Equipment Loan Service, Water Safety, Small Craft Safety and Human Resources.

If you are interested in volunteering contact Rosemary between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at 734-4283.

*EDUCATION MINISTER VISITS COLLEGE VIA SATELLITE

CULTURE

*SIX NATIONS' RESIDENT NEW EMPLOYEE AT THE COLLEGE

Minister of Education test-drives system

By JENNIFER BACON
Staff Writer

An important visitor graced the halls of the "college without walls" on Feb. 9.

Ontario Minister of Education John Snobelen visited by satellite from Toronto the five access centres of the College des Grands Lacs.

Snobelen toured the college's Toronto access centre, learning how computer and satellite systems function and talking to students and faculty.

The Welland access centre of College des Grands Lacs is housed within Confederation Secondary School on Tanguay Avenue.

He sat in on a meeting planning for the next fiscal year, experimented with a system called Telewriter, spoke in an audio conference program and received warm welcomes with drawings made by students in all five access centres in a Programming room.

He then spoke with all centres in a video conference room. He tried a game of tic-tac-toe on a computer with Lola Cormier, 20, of Welland.

'It's a tremendous advantage when stepping out in the real world'
— Snobelen

COMPUTERS *in the* CLASSROOM

Students from campuses in Toronto, Penetang, Windsor, Hamilton and Welland spoke directly with Snobelen by satellite and gave quick demonstrations of slide shows and Internet programs the computers can access.

"It's a tremendous advantage to all people who have education in this technology when stepping out into the real world," said Snobelen, referring to his "virtual audience."

He said College des Grands Lacs is "at the forefront" of today's education.

College des Grands Lacs concluded the ceremony by presenting Snobelen with a plaque representing all five satellites of the college.

"College des Grands Lacs is an extraordinary opportunity for the people and the province," said Snobelen.

"The visit gave us a feeling of hope," said Doris Evans, co-ordinator of the Early Childhood Education and Nursing programs at College des Grands Lacs.

"We had a positive feeling about the presentation."

Home-alone schooling proves challenging

By JENNIFER BACON
Staff Writer

Students at College des Grands Lacs are giving it their all.

"They really want to make this type of education work so they do more than necessary, they give it 100 per cent," said Doris Evans, co-ordinator of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Nursing programs at the French college.

The distance education system used at the college proved to be more than many students could handle in September.

"It was thrown at us," said Lori Lamontagne, 19, an ECE student at the French college.

Evans said they are looking at new ways to plan the training on the systems differently for next September and the new batch of students.

The college is also gearing-up to go on-line on the Internet, which would give people who would not normally have an opportunity to attend post-secondary institutions the chance to get an education.

Evans said the new developments are challenging and exciting.

She said she is looking forward to working from home.

Continuing education classes beginning

By JENNIFER BACON
Staff Writer

College des Grands Lacs has broadened its horizons.

The French-language college now has Continuing Education courses available.

"We have to make the best of our equipment," said Doris Evans, co-ordinator of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Nursing programs at the college.

College des Grands Lacs is a school specializing in distance education. Through satellites and computer link-ups, the Welland campus is connected with students and instructors at campuses in Hamilton, Toronto, Windsor and Penetang.

Evans said about 150 students have enrolled in the evening courses to date, but that figure includes all five campuses.

The French college is offering courses in community leadership for Francophone women, French as a second language, CPR and First Aid, portfolio organizing and a course on how to prepare material for distance education.

Evans said the college has applied to the Ministry of Education for five new programs and should have an answer by mid-February.

She said the French college is also looking into holding classes on Saturdays. "It would be more convenient for people who are working want to take the classes," said Evans.

Classes started the first week of February, and will run until the end of April.

Jamieson new recruitment officer

JAMIE JAMIESON

By LYN DUNLAP
Staff Writer

A 24-year-old Six Nations Reserve resident is the newest employee at Niagara College's Aboriginal Education Access Office.

Jamie Jamieson has been hired as the new aboriginal development officer-access and recruitment. She fills the position until the second week of June when the part-time contract ends.

She said she wanted to come to the college "for a change of pace and to find out more of the policies of admittance to enter into college."

Prior to Niagara, Jamieson worked at Ganohkwa Sra, a women's shelter on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford as a community educator volunteer co-ordinator for three years, beginning in April 1993.

Jamieson's responsibilities included dealing with volunteers, scheduling and training. For the community education aspect, she developed a family violence curriculum for children in the ages ranging from junior kindergarten to those in Grade 8. She also put together presentations for the public and universities.

Before the women's shelter, she was employed at the Youth Employment Centre at the Six Nations Reserve for one year.

Jamieson graduated from a supply teaching course in 1993. It was at a six-month program at the Grand River Polytech on the Six Nations Reverse. It is an institute offering courses and programs at the college and university levels.

She has taken courses in psychology, sociology and computers. She has since continued to take extra courses on a part-time basis.

"I'm still picking up classes here and there," she says.

Jamieson has two sons, Stew and Craig. She is engaged.

In her spare time — aside from doing fund-raising for her son's hockey team — she said she enjoys being a sports fan, reading and helping her fiance with his bottling business.

"First, I have to familiarize myself with the procedures and policies," she said. "Then, I'll be going out to communities to speak on behalf of the college's Aboriginal Department."

Awaiting approval

By LYN DUNLAP
Staff Writer

Long-term plans for Niagara College's Aboriginal Education Access Office have been established, says the person in charge of the office.

"There is a 10-year plan for the aboriginal office," says Wendy Johnson-Martin, manager of the Aboriginal Education Management Circle.

The plan includes developing more staff for the office, bringing in more people such as a cultural liaison officer and a curriculum developer so we can work with existing programs, she says.

'We won't know until March' — Johnson-Martin

The Aboriginal Department is waiting for responses from the federal and provincial governments for word of funding for six proposals regarding programs and staffing.

"Presently, everything is just sitting," says Johnson-Martin. "We won't know anything until March."

Also on the agenda is the upgrading of resources in the aboriginal lounge for students.

"The room isn't being used to the capacity it could be and we need to meet everyone's needs, especially regarding computers," says Johnson-Martin. "We also need to get more students aware of the services of the aboriginal office."

The social activity that was scheduled for the end of February has been changed to March 9. The guest speaker will be Lawrence Martin, who has agreed to be the official native role model for Niagara College. Last year, he received an honorary diploma at a ceremony held in his honor.

"We are also working on getting Lawrence Martin to spend the day at the college to speak with students and perhaps perform," says Johnson-Martin.

THE EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211, Ext. 7750/382-2383. Fax (905) 788-3978.

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Victims should come first

A babysitter was murdered by a 14-year-old "boy" who broke into the house in Toronto. He will be tried under the Young Offenders Act. Under the act he will get a maximun of five years for his crime and then will be set free. His record will disappear by the time he's 19 years old.

Two kids will never see another day begin again in Hamilton, thanks to a drunk driver who struck the vehicle they were in, killing them. The "killer" will now serve a two year sentence and then will be free to go.

There are many more stories similar to the ones described, and they occur everyday... Can someone explain what kind of world we live in, where people get away with "murder"?

Could it be there is nothing that can be done to bring justice to those who cry for it? Let us not forget the "rightful" punishment deserved by those individuals who commit a crime and walk away.

There has got to be a better way to make things more secure for our so-called society.

Death penalty, longer jail terms, bigger fines, hard labor, solitary confinement — they all sound just perfect.

Before any type of punishment can be implemented, we must get rid of all those little phrases in our laws that lawyers love. Phrases such as minimum or maximun sentence, not to exceed, parole, bail, and many other inconveniences.

For once, we should think more about the victims than how the punished will survive.

SALVADOR RAMOS JR.

Course outlines false

Course outlines at Niagara College are designed to inform students of the course they have registered for, including the required grade to pass the course.

The only problem is that the minimum grade required may get a student a pass, but the same grade may not be enough to graduate a specific program.

Teachers tell students that the course outline is a contract, but this is false. Grades needed to graduate programs are apparently found in the course calendar, not course outlines.

Why are course outlines given out to all students if their contents are false?

Teachers prepare the outlines and program directors sign them supposedly making them official. Yet when problems arise, teachers and directors have different stories.

This obvious breakdown of communication causes problems for students, and should be examined by administration to avoid future difficulties.

Teachers are supposedly at risk of getting in trouble if they do not teach what is in the course outline, so why is it that an outline can be ignored when a director or teacher disagrees with it?

Obviously these outlines mean nothing, and students should take it upon themselves to find out the correct grade needed for graduation.

JEFF MACKAY

Letter to the Editor

Police misunderstanding

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Erin Pinchin's perspective, "Beware of cops on power trips."

Granted Erin, it is quite frightening when one's life is threatened. However, it is terrifying when a reporter publishes inductive accounts such as yours.

Articles like this are at the root of misunderstanding between the police and communities.

Certainly this horrific tale is tragic, regardless of the professional making the threats. However, I doubt this article would have crossed any reporter's mind if a surgeon had made such threats.

Your neglect to mention whether this cop was on duty, led me to the conclusion he was not a cop on a power trip.

Instead, he seemed like a disgruntled husband who apparently didn't appreciate his wife's manager forcing her to quit.

A reaction, I'm sure a man of any profession might make. Perhaps this article should have been headlined "Managers with authority complexes wind up jobless."

Your article continues on with praise for the noble investigation of the Peel Regional Police. In fact, you seemed quite satisfied with their professionalism. So why is it this isolated occurrence involving one constable deserved the title "Cops on power trips?"

There are enough media sources present that prey on the chance of a police mishap. It is nauseating that my college newspaper condones frivolous articles such as this.

You're right Erin, the police are here to protect our society.

So why is it you and other media sources stalk them like vultures?

The media, like the police, have a profound impact on society. Perhaps it's time you guys take responsibility and refrain from these demeaning tales.

Craig Farrish
Law and Security Administration program student

Balance the budget: Sell off CBC

By STEPHANIE BONNER
Staff Writer

If you're going broke and can't afford another loan, what do you do for money? You sell off your assets. Canada is in this situation, and she has a lot to sell, starting with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

Throughout the 1980s, the CBC was spending $130 million more each year than the major private Canadian broadcasters. Why? The bureaucrats at the CBC are very much like a child asking for money to buy some gum. If you give him a dollar, he'll come back with a pack of Hubba-Bubba. If you give him a fiver, he'll buy the gum and 200 Swedish berries. Whereas private broadcasters (like any other private corporation) use their revenues resourcefully, the CBC attempts to legitimize its budget by spending every last tax dollar it receives.

Granted, the CBC is now facing massive cutbacks by the federal government. Since the '80s, however, CBC expenditures have seen a dramatic increase from $563 million a year, to close to $1 billion a year. By no means would cutbacks permanently cripple the CBC.

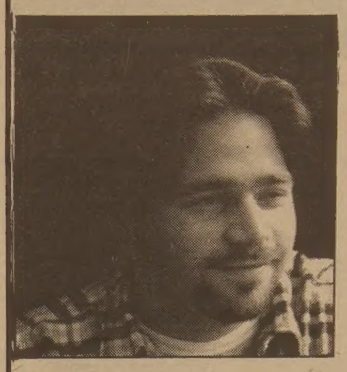
Despite the inefficiency of money management at the CBC, Canadians are still funding its production. If Canadians didn't have a nationalized broadcasting system, then Canadian cultural diversity would suffer, says Ottawa and the Canadian Radio-Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). Excuse me?

The irony of the federal policy on the necessity of cultural diversity in programming is too thick to spread. In the mid '80s, the CBC bought out CKY/CKX in Winnipeg, Man., through federal broadcasting policy. The policy's main objective is to ensure the CBC provides a balanced representation of Canadian society. Why, then, did control over Winnipeg shift to Toronto? Regional issues important to the people of Manitoba were scrapped for Toronto culture, which supposedly reflected the general cultural policies of the CRTC. It seems to me the feds have their own agenda of centralizing government control, and using "cultural diversity" as a front.

There is no reason why the CBC should not be sold off to private enterprise. Despite being private corporations, both CTV and Global broadcast Canadian programming. Of course, the CRTC won't renew their licences if they don't comply with cultural policy (a completely different hornet's nest I don't wish to stir up at this time), but still, they do broadcast homegrown programs and without burden to the country's ratepayers. If Canada didn't have a national debt of $500 billion, then maybe the salvation of the CBC might be worth thinking about. Since that's not the case, it's time to let go of the past and do what's best for our future.

OPINION

New fee, a tax?



By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

Our beloved Student Administrative Council (SAC) has approved a Student Technology Enhancement Fee (new word for tax). The decision was approved Feb. 6 at the Board of Directors meeting.

The tax is expected to take effect in September. The goal of the tax is to provide funds to replace outdated technology and to provide up-to-date technology at the college.

The tax will cost full-time students $35 a semester and works out to cost students $2.19 a week.

Don't relax yet, part-time students. SAC wants to tax you, as well.

The new fee is a great idea for the college and it will benefit the students, but most of us will be gone before we can see the results of the tax program.

For the program to really reach the students, it should be put into place over a three-year time period. The tax should be charged to only first-year students, for they are the ones who will benefit from the technology enhancement.

The enhancement fee may be changed at the discretion of the Student Technologies Enhancement Committee, but the change must be approved by SAC.

STEC will consist of seven voting members who can only spend what is raised through the new fee program.

It is important to remember that Niagara College still has an obligation to purchase and provide instructional technology for classroom use.

I wonder if SAC will put the idea of the technology enhancement tax to the students before they take our money?

How about a mini-referendum at Niagara College?

I wonder how many students really want to pay an extra $70 when they have seen their student loans shrink?

As students, we must speak out on this issue and let our elected/appointed members of SAC know how we feel and where we stand.

Are we learners, or students?

By TERESA ARMSTRONG
Staff Writer

Hi, I'm Teresa and I'm a learner at Niagara College.

That's right: a learner.

If you haven't heard the new politically correct term for college attendees — it's "learner." If you think this new shift is a little ludicrous, join the line.

OK, we learn to tie our shoes, we learn to drive and we learn to eat with a knife and fork. But, we study to become a doctor. We study for tests in our chosen fields. We study to attain our diploma. Therefore, all people are learners, but those of us who pay for the opportunity to learn are students.

I realize the demographics of the college population are changing.

The student body is no longer primarily made up of fresh-out-of-high schoolers. However, the new trend of students coming back to college after many years outside academia shouldn't have to signal new lingo.

When I think about a student's life it brings to mind cramming, all-nighters, too many coffees and way too much junk food.

When I think about being a learner, it brings to mind mommy and/or daddy holding your bike steady while you feverishly try to learn to ride it.

Like riding a bike, learning means never forgetting how. However, the college tries to make itself look like a guardian when really it is an institution, not a parent who is willing to hold you steady forever.

Learning is considered a lifelong practice, but to me, being in college means just a two or three year stint. And learners don't pay for the knowledge they absorb, but students do.

Students don't always learn anything here anyway. Regrettably, some are just here for the Ontario Student Assistance Program, but are still considered students on the registrar's master list.

Just think. The new acronym for Student Administrative Council, (SAC) will be Learner Administrative Council (LAC). Maybe this is more suitable and slightly hilarious.

Think of all the new jargon evolving: learner card, learner fees, learner discount, and my favorite — starving learner.

Foreign language barrier broken

'Patience is the key word'

By TRACY LAPRISE
Staff Writer

Hands waving, legs shaking and fingers pointing: that's what happens during interviews with international students.

After interviewing many of the international students for the Niagara News, I have noticed their enthusiastic body language as they try to learn the English language.

There is a lot of fidgeting and nervousness during an interview with the students. You can imagine how they must feel in an interview when trying to speak a language they are just learning.

Patience is the key word. Of course, the interviews take a little longer. One student, Yun Ju Kim had to use a dictionary during the interview for some questions. She was only in the level one English. She is also used to speaking Korean or Russian.

The students often wave their hands when something is misunderstood. This is to show me that I have written something down wrong or repeated something back that they didn't say.

Often the students will point out if there is a communication problem. An example, one of the students pointed out on a map the country she was speaking about.

The international students are happy to be photographed. After each interview the students ask if it's "picture time." One student, a young man from Taiwan, asked me if he could "freshen up" before the picture. Of course we had a good laugh together.

Sometimes we get into situations where we can't figure out what each other is saying. Then it is time to call in a reinforcement. This is any student sitting or standing nearby who could help translate the conversation.

Questions can easily be misinterpreted at times. I asked one student if there is corporal punishment in their school. The student replied, " No, but my teacher killed someone." During the course of the interview, the "murder" was later discovered to be an accident.

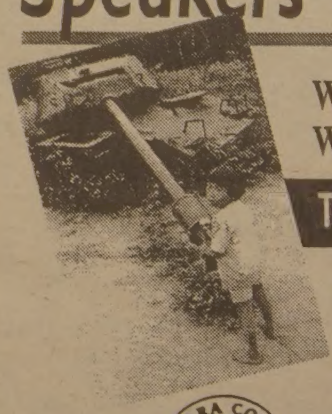
One student, during an interview, would look at my notes and check what I was writing. If something was wrong the student would say "not good for country." This, of course, was the same as using the journalistic approach "off the record."

An interview with international students is quite an experience. They're interesting people to get to know and they have a great sense of humor. I find them to be respectful and very polite. It's also a learning process to get to know each other's countries.

Student Handbook Recipients

PLEASE NOTE:
IF YOU ARE CALLING
International Hostelling
THE ONLY CORRECT NUMBER IS
357-0770

Niagara College Speakers' Series '96



WHY IS THERE STILL WAR IN OUR WORLD?

Tuesday, Feb. 20, '96

Featuring Dr. James Orbinski, MD from Doctors Without Borders, the world's largest independent medical humanitarian relief organization operating in more than 63 countries.

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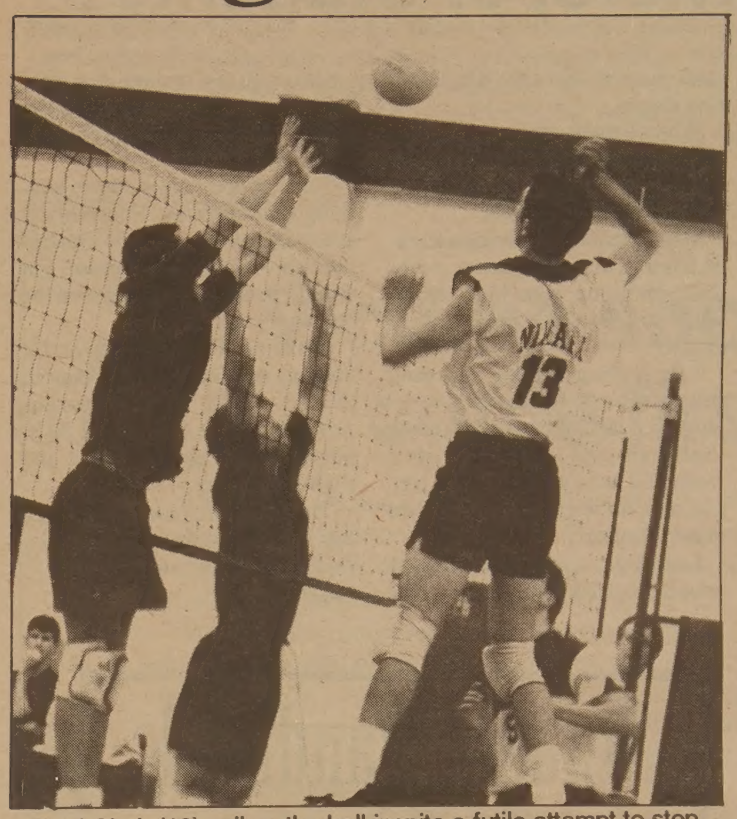
***MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM TO HOST QUARTER-FINAL GAME**

SPORTS

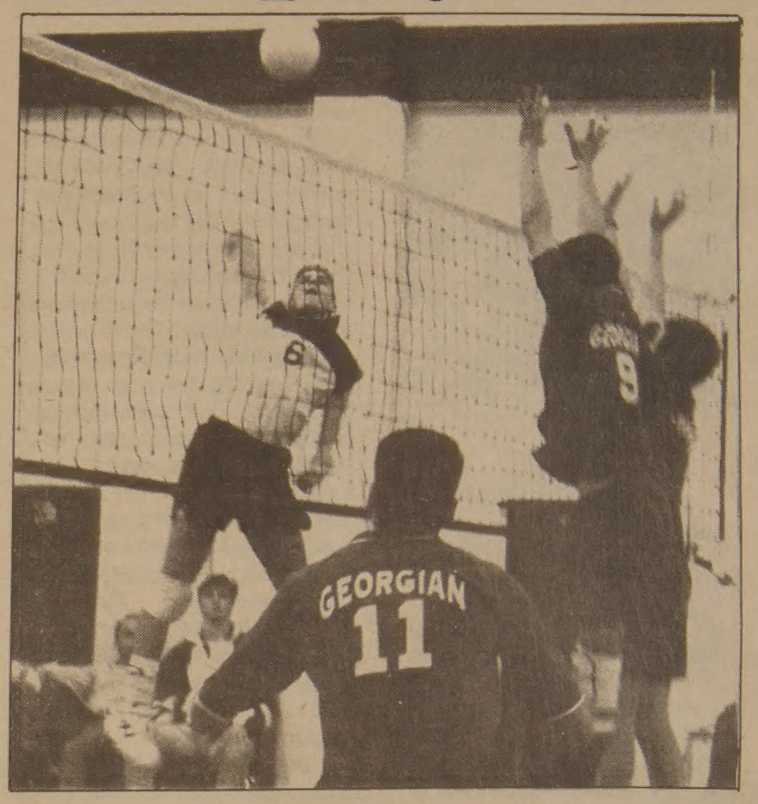
***NEW SPORTS SHOW TO HIT THE AIRWAVES IN COLLEGE RADIO**

Knights rolling right into playoffs



Paul Clark (13) spikes the ball inspite a futile attempt to stop it by the Georgian players.

Photo by Salvador Ramos Jr.



Pat Deschambeault goes for the kill as all the Georgian players can do is look on.

Photo by Salvador Ramos Jr.

By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr.
Staff Writer

Clear the way, Niagara's men's volleyball team finished the season on the road and on the right note.

The Knights won three sets to one against the Nipissing University Lakers, but lost to Canadore College's Panthers three to one in North Bay, last weekend. On Tuesday, they played the Georgian College Grizzlies and took the match three sets to one.

It was a long road stretch for Niagara, but it was productive as coach Blair Cudmore said to his team on Tuesday, "I'm very proud of you guys and what you have accomplished."

Niagara's last two wins place them in third place and give them home-field advantage for the quarter-final game against Loyalist College from Belleville on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Niagara's season began with a 1-4 record last year, but finished at 8-6. The team takes a record of 7-2 record into the playoffs when they play the 9-7 Loyalist from the East Division.

"The guys are starting to come together," said assistant coach Ray Sarkis, concerning Niagara's play in the new year. Coach Cudmore said the team can beat anybody.

Alex Saddler and Pat Deschambeault will lead Niagara into the rookie team's first playoff appearance. Saddler is third in the league with 192 kills and ninth with 17 blocks. Deschambeault is in seventh spot with 156 kills and in sixth spot with 24 blocks.

During weekend action, the Knights took the trip to North Bay. In Saturday's match, it seemed as though the trip had taken a toll on the team as their playing was not impressive.

Niagara took the first set 16-14. The Panthers won the remaining three sets.

On Sunday, the Nipissing University Lakers posed less of a threat to Niagara. The team took the first two sets by the impressive scores of 15-3 and 15-5, but let their guard down in the third set. They lost 15-3.

Not to be outdone, Niagara worked hard in the fourth set and won 15-9.

Tuesday saw the home-advantage come to the Knights courtesy of the Georgian Grizzlies.

The Knights took the first two sets 15-12 and 15-13, but lost the third 15-13.

The fourth set was marred by many different factors. The referees left much to be desired as they made one too many questionable calls. At one point, the refs took 15 minutes to discuss their own calls, and took another 10 minutes later.

A couple of the Georgian fans showed how much class they lacked, by continuously yelling and cursing at the referees.

Through the three games, Saddler finished with an impressive 55 kills, followed by Deschambeault's 49 and Warren Bele's 39. Chris Wiersma added 19 and Paul Clark had 16.

Clark led the blocking with 19, followed by Wiersma's 16. Deschambeault added nine, Bele had five and Saddler took four.

The Knights expect to win the game as they continue to play excellent in the new year. They have gone from weak playing to a very strong and commanding offence, and a quick defence.

Women fall short of playoff spot

Cindy Breton (2) and Chatterton (9) make a move for the block

Photo by Salvador Ramos Jr.

By JOHN EATON
Staff Writer

Niagara's women's volleyball team finished the 1995-96 season in a crossover tournament at Redeemer College in Ancaster, last weekend.

The Knights went into the tournament with a 2-8 record, but still an "outside chance to make the playoffs. They had to win all four games on the weekend.

Niagara played first last Friday night against Canadore College. The Knights fought hard and held the lead for a couple of times. In the end, Niagara won the first set 16-14, but the Panthers took the nest two sets 16-14 (each).

On Saturday the Knights played three games and the first one was against Centennial College. They lost in two straight sets 15-11 (each).

Oakville's Sheridan College also took the win against Niagara two sets to one, 15-12 and 15-11.

George Brown College also beat Niagara 15-8 and 15-4.

Niagara's final league record is 2-12.

Laura Chatterton (9) receives the ball for the Knights in the games against Centennial College.

Photo by Salvador Ramos Jr.

Women can still pull it off

By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr.
Staff Writer

It was a tough home stretch for the Niagara College women's basketball team as they won one game, but lost three.

However, the women can still be a part of the playoff party in the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA).

Niagara is in the playoffs, but need to win their last season home game to secure a fifth-place finish.

The Knights will be playing Mohawk College in Hamilton, tomorrow at 2 p.m.

It has come down to the last game, since Niagara lost three straight home games, with the latest being Seneca and Durham colleges.

Last Saturday, the Knights experienced their eighth loss of the season, but only fourth of the new year.

Niagara became just one more victim of the 11-1 Seneca College Scouts from Toronto as they lost 92-44 during OCAA action.

The Knights played another tough game at home as they prepare for their last game of the season. The team fell behind but never gave up and made the Scouts work hard for their points.

Manie Roy finished another game with a strong performance, she had 17 points. Julie McLaren and Shelley Holden added nine points each in the Niagara's loss.

The Knights suffered another heart-breaker, early last week as they fell to Durham's Lady Lords 60-35.

Coach Brian Bleich said the girls couldn't make the shots when the opportunity was there and failed to make the big plays.

In the end, it would be the big plays that killed the Knights. The Lady Lords took advantage of the Knights giving up 34 foul shots and making 28 of them, while the Knights were eight for 12 on foul shots.

The Lady Lords were first on the scoreboard and didn't allow a Knight point until five minutes into the contest.

Niagara's defence kept it close through the first 15 minutes of the game, and the offence scored enough points to hold Durham to a 14-10 lead with five minutes left.

The first half finished with a Durham run of 13 points in the last four minutes. The Knights' were able to score only four points. The Lady Lords led 27-14 at the half.

Second-half action mirrored the first 15 minutes of the first as the Knights defence allowed Durham to score 24 points againts their 21.

The last five were also a mirror of the last five from the first half. The Lady Lords took a nine-point run, allowing the Knights two points.

Roy finished the game with 20 points, followed by Tara Pepper with six points and Jennifer Crosby had four points.

Playoffs will start next week, but the Knights won't know where or when they play until the game against Mohawk. If they win, the Knights will have the fifth spot and will probably play on the road and could end up playing against either Fanshawe College in London or Seneca.

The Knights will go into the playoffs with Roy in fifth place in scoring with 162 points. She accounts for almost 30 per cent of the team's scoring and will surely be a factor in the playoffs.

Holden is the type of player who works hard and can make things happen, and when she is on a hot streak — she can drain it from downtown anytime.

Stephanie Lawson, McLaren and Michelle Pring will add strength as they don't quit and play to the last second.

Pennie Toneguzzo will add strength under the basket, to steal as many balls away as possible. Pepper will join the opportunistic offence which strikes when least expected.

Lesley Smith and Becky Parkins will provide the final pieces in the Knights' lineup.

Bleich said the girls can play better than what they have lately and he says they can beat Mohawk and secure their place in post-season.

Niagara has what it takes to be a contender in the playoffs. They began the season at 1-4 last year, but were able to go 4-4 in the new year.

The Knights will be playing a team (Mohawk) they beat before by one point. It will be a tough match, but the girls shouldn't have any problems taking the win.

A playoff game on the road will be tough, but they can pull it off.

Lesley Smith (34) dances away from a Durham player as Manie Roy (44) watches on.

Photo by Salvador Ramos Jr.

Roy (44) goes up for the lay up, leaving a trail of Durham players behind her. The Knights play their last game of the season tomorrow against the Mohawk Mountaineers, at 2 p.m., in Hamilton.

Photo by Salvador Ramos Jr.

Men miss playoffs again

By BRIAN BOWMAN
Staff Writer

Niagara College's men's basketball team used a tenacious defence in a 75-60 romp over Sarnia's Lambton College, gaining a split in a four-game homestand that once offered a glimmer of playoff hope for the Knights.

A pair of narrow losses last week against the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's elite, ruined the Knights' quest for post-season action, thus, making the team's final three regular season games of little importance in the OCAA standings.

Deadlocked at 34 at the half, the Knights held the Lions' attack to a meager 26 second-half points, using a tough defence led by 6'3" forward Paul Weekes and a quick transition game.

"We definitely turned up our intensity and defence in the second half," said Knights' coach Randy Conlon. "Weekes helped us block some shots in the middle, then we made a quick transition from defence to offence."

Rheinhold Klassen led the Knights' with 14 points, while seldom-used forward Chad Zinn came off the bench in the second half to add eight.

Niagara's record is six wins and eight defeats. There are no home games left.

OPINION

In the ever-demanding profession of sports, coaches all too often become the targets of the most astute criticism from fans and players alike, amidst a team's struggle with success.

It is in most cases, a severe misjudgment that suffices as an appropriate excuse for a team's deficient level of talent. It becomes an effortless deflection of responsibility thrust on the shoulders of one person.

The coach is expected to exude the superlative wisdom that will carry a team to excellence. He is expected to be psychologist, teacher and father-figure, all rolled into one. He is, of course, the leader. And when losses begin to mount on a regular basis — it is the coach who is dismissed, regardless of past successes.

The old adage 'you can't fire the players — so you might as well fire the coach' has existed forever, and will continue to be adhered to in the sportsworld until time exists.

All the great coaches have, at one time or another, heard the ominous call that their services would no longer be needed and a new direction would be taken.

He is often the victim of poor scouting by management, and the subsequent lacklustre performance by the players, thereafter. He is expected to perform the miraculous task of transforming those players of limited talent, into ones who are expected to win on a nightly basis.

Then again, what the hell. If you can't blame the coach, then who can you blame? It's certainly not the players' fault. Is it?

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From Welland: take East Main to the 140, go right and follow to Garrison Rd. Make a left on HWY 3, straight up and we're on the right
.Look for the PALM TREE!!!

Sabre players' interviews coming to CRNC

By NETHA NEVERSON
Staff Writer

Fans of the Buffalo Sabres hockey team will soon be able to hear live interviews with some Buffalo players.

Brian Haidon, sports director for the CRNC (Campus Radio Niagara College), spoke to the hockey team's public relations department and arranged a deal with them.

He will be given a press pass whenever there's a spot in the press box. He will also be given access to the dressing rooms.

"I asked if I could get a press pass and they said yes on a game-to-game basis," said Haidon. "It's a good start going to the game on a game-to-game basis. I was surprised they allowed it to happen. It doesn't hurt to ask, sometimes you get lucky."

Buffalo will be moving into a new arena next year, Haidon said.

"I'm hoping to get a spot in there all the time. This a good start, getting my foot in the door and the experience is good. I've met other reporters there too. I've met Jim Kelly from the Buffalo News."

There are only 14 Buffalo home games left, and Haidon said he is hoping to get into all of them.

He said his next step will be to contact the Toronto Maple Leafs and ask them if he can get a press pass for their games.

On another matter, Haidon said he is working on getting the volume turned up for the radio station in places at the college that don't have volume control buttons.

If students wonder why they can't turn up the volume, well it used to be louder, but some professors complained about it being too loud, he said, adding he is working on increasing the volume because some students don't know the college has a radio station.

He said there are only five places where there is volume control.

Bike-racing championship coming to Copps

INDOOR BICYCLE RACING CHAMPIONSHIP

By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

It's high-speed bicycle racing on walls.

"People are on the edge of their seats like they are riding a roller coaster while they watch," said Spike Farrauto, event co-ordinator for Fonthill Velodrome short-track bicycle races.

"It's first-rate entertainment and good clean fun," said Farrauto.

The indoor bicycle-racing championship, sponsored by Fonthill Velodrome short-track bicycle races, is being held Saturday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton.

"It's like short-track speed skating—teams of racers going full out on a (oval) short-track designed like walls," said Farrauto.

Fonthill Velodrome short-track racing has been operating outdoors for five years. They are moving indoors for the first of what could be a yearly event.

"We showed videos to Copps Coliseum and they flipped out. They have given us the place for nine days," said Farrauto.

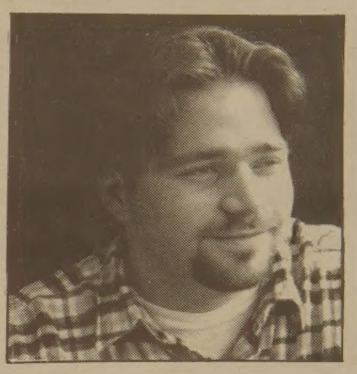
In Fonthill, the Velodrome racing drew between 300 and 400 people. In Copps Coliseum they can draw thousands and Farrauto says he thinks it's "wild."

"It's a safe sport. There have been a few accidents with people going to the hospital, though," said Farrauto.

Admission is $12 for adults and $6 for children.

For ticket information contact Spike at 682-6966 or Colin at 682-8787. Tickets are also available at the information desk at the Seaway Mall, Welland.

Bulls heading for record season



By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

The National Basketball Association (NBA) has passed its season halfway mark, signifying the event with one of the greatest all-star weekends ever in San Antonio, Tex.

Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls won the Most Valuable Player award (MVP) for the all-star game and furthered his run towards what should be league MVP.

The fans may have booed him, but his only competition for the award was Shaquille O'Neal of the Orlando Magic. When you compare the two players, Jordan displays the finesse and talent the league sells. O'Neal is the rough and tumble side of the NBA — the side that won't sell until Jordan steps down as the "King" and finally retires for good.

In the warm-up all-star game, which included the rookie game, Damon Stoudamire of the Toronto Raptors took the MVP award with an excellent performance. Stoudamire should have silenced the critics with his play and come voting time he should walk away with rookie-of-the-year honors.

The second half of the NBA year is generally the most exciting time of the year — gearing up for the playoffs.

Four teams have taken control of their divisions and should all give a great drive for a championship.

In the Pacific division, the Seattle Super Sonics have posted an excellent record and Shawn Kemp has made a long shot bid for league MVP.

In the Midwest division, the San Antonio Spurs have come to the front of the pack once again, led by the "Admiral" David Robinson, who has shown the league he is being all that he can be.

In the Atlantic division, the Magic have stepped out in front, but their lack of winning on the road could stop them from going anywhere. Penny Hardaway and O'Neal have played excellent but they lack a third strong go-to man.

Finally, in the Central division, the Bulls have taken a commanding lead in what might be a record season.

The Bulls could win 70 games this year and set a record doing so. The off-season gain of Dennis Rodman as a rebounder was an excellent move. With Jordan and Scottie Pippen, you have a championship.

It may be early but it is almost certain that the Bulls will be at the top of the NBA mountain as champions.

Snowboarding jumps ahead in popularity

By TRACY LAPRISE
Staff Writer

It's a fact. Snowboarding is more popular than skiing.

Hundreds of people that used to go skiing are trying snowboarding.

Chris Calabretta, 22, of Niagara Falls says he has been snowboarding for six or seven years.

He says he's not competitive yet, but would like to be in the future.

"I guarantee that snowboarding will soon become an Olympic sport," says Calabretta.

Calabretta says he has convinced his own friends to stop skiing and try snowboarding.

He says the prices don't really differ from skiing. The price range depends on what people are willing to spend. He paid $1,000 for his snowboard. But, he says some cost between $300 and $400.

He says that snowboarding is a safer sport.

Calabretta says that people who ski could easily break an arm or a leg from a slight fall.

"I have had some serious falls on my snowboard and only came out with a concussion," says Calabretta.

"There is a lot more freedom on a snowboard, skiing is to limiting," says Calabretta.

Nadine Uictenhout, 17, of Mapleridge, B.C., says she has been snowboarding for four years. She only snowboards for fun.

"When I go out, I never really see many skiers on the mountains," says Uictenhout.

She says she likes snowboarding better because of the competition. She says she likes doing jumps, freestyle and half pipes.

"Snowboarding is definitely going to be a new sport in the Olympics."

She says that skiing is more dangerous than snowboarding because your legs aren't together. She says snowboarding lets your legs feel more secure.

"I tore ligaments in my knee from a slight fall," says Uictenhout.

She says the prices don't differ from skiing—the cost of bindings and boards can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

"I would encourage people to try snowboarding. If you have ever been skateboarding, then you will love it," says Uictenhout.

Darryl Nash, an employee at Earl Georges Ski Shop in Owen Sound, says he's selling more snowboards then skis.

Nash says the main consumers are high school students, both male and female.

He says snowboarding will be an Olympic medal event within two years.

Nash says that snowboarding is completely different from skiing. Your hands are free and the flips are not as hard on the knees.

He says the average cost for a snowboard is $500, but you can spend up to $1500 plus extra for the boots and ski suits.

Nash says he has had some problems with his shoulder from snowboarding.

"Snowboarding isn't a very safe sport. They have a blind side, they can easily cut people off because they can only see one side of the hill," says Nash.

"In the next four to five years their will be more snowboarders then skiers," says Nash.

Nash says snowboarding is "way cooler."

***NIAGARA'S RADIO STATION HAS SOMETHING FREE FOR EVERYONE**

EGO

***OASIS, THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK**

Promotions from CRNC

By NETHA NEVERSON
Staff Writer

Attention all students — the CRNC (Campus Radio Niagara College) is giving away prizes.

Brandee Carrey, director of promotion for the CRNC, is giving away tickets to concerts as a way of promoting the station.

She said she is trying to increase the awareness of the station.

Carrey's job is to get the tickets from a public relations person and arrange how tickets can be given away.

"My job is very stressful, there's always so much to do."

The tickets are given to the college free in exchange for the radio station giving air time, which helps promote the musician.

CRNC has already given away tickets to Ashley MacIsaac and the Big Sugar at Isaac's, the pub at Brock University in St. Catharines.

For those tickets, the station played Name That Tune, where students identify the tune, or answer a quiz question.

On Feb. 9, CRNC started giving away a pair of tickets to see She Stole My Beer and Colin James. These tickets will be given away weekly until March 13.

Carrey said her first promotion didn't go as well as she planned "because it was done over the radio and not many students knew about it, so it wasn't very successful at all."

For this promotion, Carrey has made posters and used a ballot box for people to drop off their names. She said there was a stronger response to this one.

On Feb. 9, CRNC started a remote project, meaning instead of broadcasting from the studio, they will be broadcasting from the pub.

There will be live broadcasts from the pub to the college every Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. until the end of the semester — aimed at promoting the station.

Carrey said the pub gets a big crowd so that will promote the station more.

The studio deejay will receive calls from the pub deejay. Students in the building will be able to hear live what they are saying.

She said she also hopes to ensure the CRNC Top 40 listing is published in the Niagara News.

THE CRNC TOP 40

1.	WONDERWALL	OASIS
2.	THE WORLD I KNOW	COLLECTIVE SOUL
3.	I WANT TO COME OVER	MELISSA ETHERIDGE
4.	WAITING FOR TONIGHT	TOM PETTY
5.	PROMISE	VICTOR
6.	THE GARDEN OF ALLAH	DON HENLEY
7.	IN THE MEANTIME	SPACEHOG
8.	SISTER	THE NIXONS
9.	TAFFY	LISA LOEB
10.	WONDER	NATALIE MERCHANT
11.	BETTER OFF AS WE ARE	BLUE RODEO
12.	SLEEPY MAGGIE	ASHLEY MACISAAC
13.	GLYCERINE	BUSH
14.	BAD AS THEY SEEM	HAYDEN
15.	U.F.O. ROSIE	WEEPING TILE
16.	TELL HER THIS	DEL AMITRI
17.	GOOD INTENTIONS	TOAD THE WET SPROCKET
18.	GRIND	ALICE IN CHAINS
19.	1979	THE SMASHING PUMPKINS
20.	MISS SARAJEVO	THE PASSENGERS
21.	TIME	HOOTIE AND THE BLOWFISH
22.	GO WALKING DOWN THERE	CHRIS ISSAK
23.	EVEN GRABLE	treble charger
24.	OH SHELLY	BARNY BENTALL
25.	BRUSH AWAY	ALICE IN CHAINS
26.	FREE AS A BIRD	THE BEATLES
27.	LIKE A ROLLING STONE	THE ROLLING STONES
28.	HOOK	BLUES TRAVELLER
29.	MY FRIENDS	RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
30.	BULLET WITH BUTTERFLY WINGS	THE SMASHING PUMPKINS
31.	LUMP	THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
32.	TOES ACROSS THE FLOOR	BLIND MELON
33.	IF I WERE YOU	k.d. lang
34.	THE LONG ROAD	EDDIE VEDDER/NUSRAT FETEH ALI KHAN
35.	WILDEST DREAMS	TOM COCHRANE
36.	ROSEALIA	BETTER THAN EZRA
37.	A GIRL LIKE YOU	EDWYN COLLINS
38.	TAXMAN	STEVIE RAY VAUGHN
39.	HAND IN MY POCKET	ALANIS MORISSETTE
40.	SISTER AWAKE	THE TEA PARTY

JOIN BOB AND SCOTT EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON AT AFTER HOURS FOR THE BEST IN 80'S RETRO!

CAMPUS ROCK CRNC

Blur vs. Oasis

By MARK FERENCE
Staff Writer

Not since the Rolling Stones and the Beatles battled it out in the 1960s has the number one spot on the British pop charts been so heavily disputed.

This time, instead of dancing to the melodies of *(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction* and *Help!*, people are dancing to *Country House* by Blur and *Roll with It* by Oasis. Today, Blur and Oasis are the hottest bands on the planet, never mind just Britain, and they both know it.

In fact, Blur's new album **The Great Escape** was originally slated for release a couple of weeks after the release of Oasis' new album **What's the Story Morning Glory?** However, to increase the competition, Blur rushed things and got their album out at the same time as Oasis.

Everywhere you look in the British press you can find headlines such as "British heavyweight championship." The media seem to fuel the bands' egos. From here, complete chaos erupts. When the dusts settles, Blur wins the battle 270,000 copies to Oasis' 220,000 copies of albums sold.

Both the bands love the warfare. They seem to detest each other. Oasis is a group of hardened tough-talking lads from Manchester, in the north. Blur is a group of well-mannered southerners with education in the fine arts. The two bands fire at each other whenever they have the chance.

Noel Gallagher, lead-guitarist of Oasis, has been quoted as saying, "Blur are a bunch of middle-class wankers trying to play hard ball with a bunch of working-class heroes." In their own defense, Blur thinks that if you've seen one Oasis gig, you've seen them all.

The more you listen to these guys, the more you realize they represent two very different Englands. It's a musical civil war. Oasis tends to play a brand of rock 'n' roll with power chords and sneering lyrics, while Blur has a more jaunty beat, something more along the lines of pop music. It's hard to ignore the comparisons to the Rolling Stones and the Beatles.

The differences in their music cross over to their lifestyles. Blur really take notice of the art involved in the music industry, creating incredible and colorful videos to display their work in a visual way. They interact with the well-known artists of Britain. On the other hand, Oasis is often rumored to be starting brawls, partying and even sprinkling cocaine on their cornflakes.

Who's to say what will happen next? Both bands are touring their home country and both will be embarking on tours in North America. One thing's for sure: with this much attitude and ego, things will be interesting.

Back on Campus . . .

Comedian Simon B. Cotter performing at After Hours on Feb. 8.

Photo by Jeff MacKay

*HARRIS CUTS TO HURT EVERYONE, INCLUDING HOSPITAL PATIENTS

LIFE

*SECURITY IN OLD AGE, AND HOW TO EARN IT

Ostrich farming a growing business

By JOSEPH GALLAGHER
Staff Writer

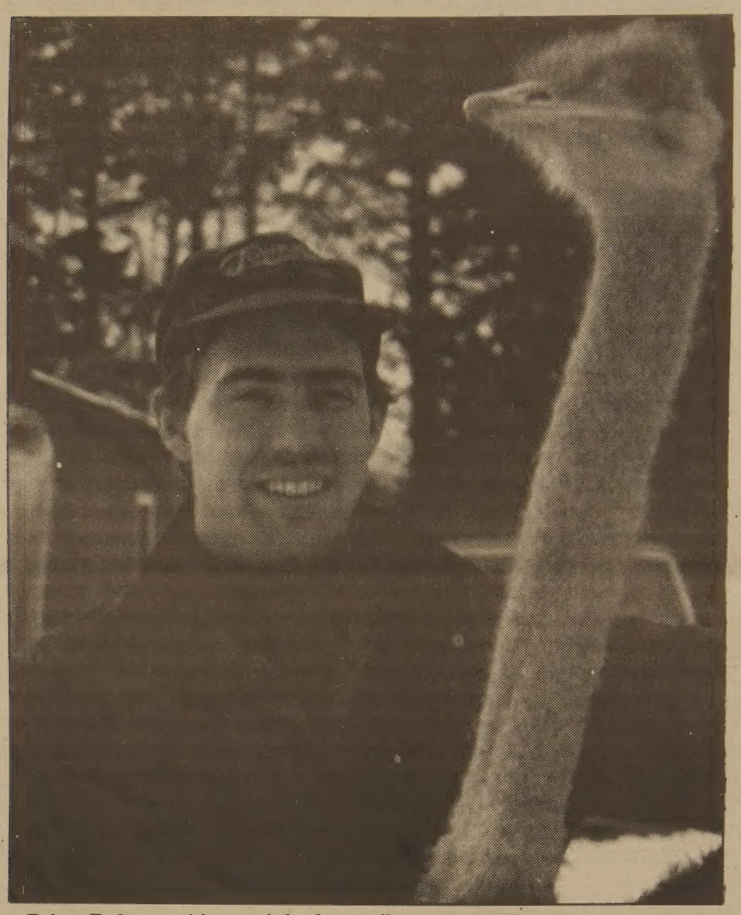
That's one big bird!

Eight-feet tall and weighing at 350 pounds are Brian Palmer's new ostrich friends. Palmer, 24, of Boxall, Ont., has invested his time and money into an alternative method of farming livestock.

When most people think of farming they think of cash crops and cattle. Not so with Palmer and a growing number of young farmers raising ostriches.

Farming ostriches is a growing business. Meat producers are unable to keep up with the high demand for ostrich meat. Palmer sees this as a golden opportunity for the future. He says in about five to 10 years the meat market will be competitive.

"I want to get into it now and get a name for myself before everyone jumps on the band wagon. The meat is quite expensive now. The more people that get into it the cheaper the meat is. I hope to make money before this happens."



Brian Palmer with an eight-foot tall, 350-pound ostrich. Palmer is raising six of the giant birds on his Boxall, Ont. farm.
Photo by Joseph Gallagher

Palmer says with an increasing number of health conscious people there has been an increase in the consumption of ostrich meat.

"Ostrich meat is a healthy alternative to beef. It has less calories, fat, and cholesterol than beef, chicken or turkey. The only problem with ostrich meat is the price. It's about $30 a pound."

Palmer started out by purchasing six ostriches, consisting of three males and three females. They were bought two months ago for $2,000 each at an age of six months. Palmer says it is a worthwhile investment because in one or two years the birds can lay about 30 to 100 eggs a year. "These birds will lay eggs until they are about 45 years old. That's a lot of eggs," says Palmer.

Palmer says an ostrich will sell for $5 a pound live weight. The birds can also be used for their hide. The leather sells for about $45 a square foot. A mature ostrich will yield 14 to 15 square feet of leather.

Palmer says he does not see any downfalls in raising these birds. Despite the money to be made in ostrich farming, there is a minimal start-up cost. Palmer says finding suitable housing for the birds can be costly.

"If you don't have a barn or some sort of facility, you have to build one. That's expensive. Luckily, we had an empty barn on our farm for the ostriches. That saved a lot of money," says Palmer.

Palmer says all his costs are tied up in buying the ostriches themselves. His other costs include building a fence around the grazing area, and feeding the birds. He says, "it is not very much to feed them, about 80 cents per day for each bird.

An ostrich can lay 30 to 100 eggs in one year.
Photo by Joseph Gallagher

"The cost of an incubator can be very expensive." Palmer says he will worry about that when the time comes. Without an incubator, only 25 per cent of the eggs will hatch as opposed to about 80 per cent with an incubator. "That obviously makes a huge difference in production," says Palmer.

Palmer says he hopes to sell some birds as breeding stock. "You can make quite a bit of money by selling breeding stock. A proven breeder can sell for $8,000," says Palmer.

Another facet of ostrich farming Palmer likes is the birds are easy to care for. He feeds them daily at 7 a.m. Palmer changes their bedding (straw) every nine days. Palmer says he likes the fact they're easy to take care of because he does not have a lot of time.

"With helping my dad farm, selling firewood, making maple syrup in the spring and working at my job for 30 hours a week, there is not a lot of time to do other things," says Palmer.

Palmer never thought he would be farming ostriches. He always wanted to be a farmer, but never knew what was the best crop.

"I think this will be a great way to make a living. I am the only person in the area who raises ostriches. Already word of mouth is getting around. I've even had people contact me on the phone asking lots of questions," says Palmer.

As far as the future goes Palmer is hopeful the ostrich business will go well. "I can't wait to see some return on the money I've spent. If all goes well, I'll probably get into some other alternative farming. I'm willing to try anything," says Palmer.

Old wives' tales may be hazardous to your health

By DEBBIE CUNNINGHAM
Staff Writer

Everyone loves to give medical advice. Usually the advice is harmless but some of these old wives' tales can be dangerous to your health. Because some of this medical folklore has been around for a long time, many people assume the information is correct.

Carolyn Hurst, the nurse for Niagara College's Welland Campus, said that in the past, the body was treated as different parts, not as a whole. Medicine didn't yet recognize that an injury to one part affected the whole.

Burns and tanning, and epilepsy are two areas where the right treatment is very important. The following are some of the myths related to these conditions and the correct courses of action to take.

BURNS/TANNING

The myth: Butter a burn to prevent scarring.

The reality: Buttering a burn will prevent the skin from cooling. Also, salt and flavors in the butter may aggravate the injury and to treat it, a doctor will then have to remove the grease, causing more pain.

A burn is a tissue injury caused by excessive exposure to thermal, chemical, electrical or radioactive agents. The effects to the skin depend on the burn's type, duration, intensity and location. Burns are usually classified as first degree, second or third degree.

A major burn would cover 25 per cent of an adult's body and 20 per cent of a child's body.

Hurst said cold water can do a lot to soothe and heal burns in 20 minutes. In fact, if the injury is immersed long enough, cold water can actually bring a second degree burn up to a first degree burn and prevent scarring.

If the burn can't be immersed in water, a cold compress works too. Hurst said fire extinguishers and ice are not recommended.

Contact a doctor, an ambulance or call 911 for further instructions.

Various causes of burns include acid, alkali, brush, chemicals, electricity, fireworks, flash explosion, gunpowder, inhalation, radiation, fires and the sun.

The myth: A healthy tan is good for your skin.

The reality: Every suntan damages the skin. The skin releases pigments, the cause of the color change, to protect itself from the sun's rays. A tan is merely a sign of skin damage.

Suntanning salons may seem like a healthy way to get a tan but they're not, said Hurst. People with fair complexions can get just as much skin damage in a salon as they would in the sun.

The myth: You can't get sunburned on a cloudy day or by staying in the shade.

The reality: Even on a cloudy day, 60 to 80 per cent of the ultraviolet (UV) rays will reach your skin. On a bright day, the UV rays can bounce off the ground or water or scatter through the air, so shade doesn't provide protection.

EPILEPSY

The myth: To end an epileptic seizure, dash cold water in the victim's face.

The reality: Nothing can stop a seizure once it starts. Dashing water in the person's face can actually be dangerous. It might cause him to swallow the water and choke.

Hurst said all you can do is keep the person comfortable and safe by removing anything in the area which could cause injury.

The myth: A person who is having a seizure should be restrained, by force if necessary.

The reality: A *petit mal* seizure is so mild that no one can tell it's happening, other than the epileptic. A *grand mal* seizure, however, may look frightening to bystanders. Restraining the person may instead cause injury as he fights to free himself.

The myth: During a seizure, put something between the victim's teeth so he doesn't bite his tongue.

The reality: Hurst said you should never put anything into a person's mouth during a seizure. The airway could get blocked and he would suffocate.

Also, muscles contractions can be powerful enough to break his teeth.

With information from Feed A Cold, Starve A Fever, A Dictionary of Medical Folklore *by Carol Ann Rinzler.*

Investing now means retiring in style later

By VICTOR ZANIEWSKI
Staff Writer

The last thing you want to think about is security in old age.

Retirement is an invention a little more than 100 years old. Otto Van Bismarck, former German chancellor, was its inventor.

It's a luxury most people don't think they can afford.

Dave Johnson, an RBC Dominion Securities investment adviser, says more and more people are realizing that in the future people will have to look out for themselves.

He says future retirees, who once could have expected to receive the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) and the Old Age Securities (OAS), are now staring at the much depleted vaults of the Canadian government.

The predicted number of Canadians over the age of 64 is to jump from 3.5 million, to eight million by the year 2030. This underscores the importance of retirement savings. The newspaper USA Today predicts that to retire in 2010, in just 14 years you will need $1 million in liquid assets.

"Some people don't have long-term vision" and aren't thinking of the future, says Johnson.

Switching gears, Johnson speaks of the Royal Bank's purchase of RBC Dominion Securities.

He says bankers can do many great things; they help with mortgage, personal loans and will help with retirements.

In acquiring "the No. 1 firm in investing (RBC Dominion Securities)," Royal Bank, cashed in on an opportunity to provide a full-service broker for the serious investors, says Johnson, adding "RBC Dominion Securities specializes in investing."

This 40-year-old investor says few people know about the benefits of contributions as a tax shelter, and benefits of compounding interest.

A duplicate painting of Monet's racing sailboats adds to the decor of his office. Johnson indulges in sailing in his spare time.

Generally speaking if a typical investor puts away $1,000 a year, then unless he is "very serious" the banks deal with that individual.

If, however, this investor's contributions exceed $20,000 the bank may refer this client to an investment adviser; the RBC Dominion Securities is better equipped to deal with the serious investor.

The instability of the Eastern European and the Chinese markets doesn't dampen Johnson's excitement about the fertile grounds of the foreign soils.

Johnson says "the future is rosy." He sees the opening of new markets as an opportunity for Canadians. Especially, for those who are "intelligent enough to diversify internationally . . . and companies that invest internationally."

After all, Canada accounts for less than three per cent of the international market. Currently an investor can use up to 20 per cent foreign content based on book value or original cost of all the investments within an RRSP (Registered Retirement Savings Plan).

After an 11-year career at General Motors, he went to Brock University, St. Catharines, where he earned his degree in business economics. Johnson says he is content with the reality of working for the next 20 years.

Johnson boldly declares he doesn't expect anything from government when he retires. However, he is certain he will have enough to retire on when the time comes.

The deadline for 1995 RRSP's contribution is Feb. 29.

University graduate finds job after intense two-week search

By STEPHANIE BONNER
Staff Writer

The search is over.

Greg Tombari, 23, of Welland, has found a full-time job.

After two weeks of hitting the pavement, Tombari was offered a six-month contract position as administrative co-ordinator at the Lincoln Community Centre (LCC) in Beamsville, Ont.

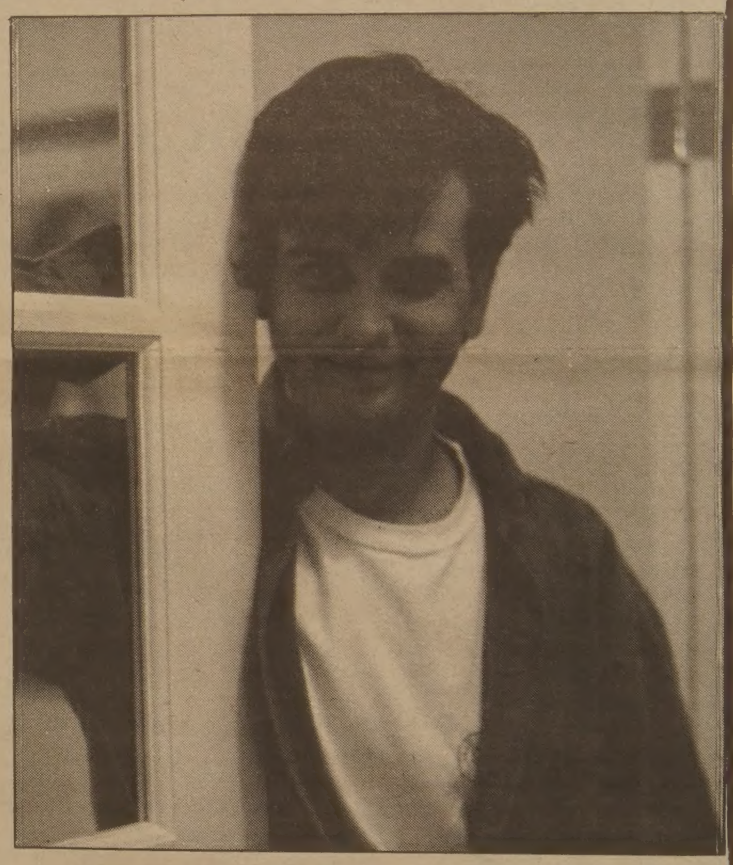
"I'm relieved," he said.

Tombari is a recent University of Windsor graduate with a degree in business. He moved to Welland in January to live with his fiancee and look for work. Since moving, he has been actively seeking employment in the field of human resource management. Tombari landed the job with the LCC and began working Feb. 5.

"I expect to gain some excellent practical managerial skills. You need experience to develop a career ladder for yourself."

Working for the LCC, Tombari will be directing and co-ordinating a pilot program for underprivileged families.

"I'm also there to assess their filing system and help in creating a new, more effective clerical environment," said Tombari, who explained he will be investigating the filing systems of other non-profit organizations to create a customized system for the LCC.



Greg Tombari, 23, breathes easy after finding a job with the Lincoln Community Centre in Beamsville, Ont.
Photo by Stephanie Bonner

Chosen from a pool of 50 applicants, Tombari credits his successful job hunt to "my skills and my presentation of those skills," but notes he would do things differently the next time he has an interview.

"I wasn't totally prepared for it," said Tombari, adding he should have taken more time to research the company before the interview. "If I didn't have the other qualities they were looking for, I probably wouldn't have got the job."

Despite his one regret, Tombari said he's thrilled to be a working man and has learned a lot from the job-hunting experience.

"I learned the jobs aren't going to come to you," he said. "You have to do the leg work and create your own opportunities."

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Penny sale helps raise money

By JENNIFER TURNER
Staff Writer

Some students in the communication class of the Human Relations program are trying to help people with a Penny Sale.

"We're putting everything we learn (in the program) into perspective to help people," said Colleen Procee, a second-year Human Relations program student.

"Our goal is basically to raise money," said Amina Maurhtar, a second-year Human Relations program student.

The students involved with the Penny Sale are Adam Fisher, Donna Gagnon, Lily Siptaric, Amina Maurhtar, Phaedra Eckhart, Rose Fala and Colleen Procee, all of the second-year Human Relations program. They were told to do something for the community.

"The Penny Sale is what we chose," said Maurhtar. The Penny Sale was Monday, Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. to noon and Tuesday, Feb. 13 from noon to 2 p.m.

Fisher said there were a number of prizes and people put their tickets in whatever prizes they wanted to win.

Fisher said 50 different local businesses in Niagara Falls, Welland and St. Catharines helped by donating prizes such as a coffee maker, hats, new clothes, gift certificates, a cordless drill, compact discs and a toaster.

The draws were held at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13 in front of the library. Even though only about a dozen people showed up for the draws 264 sheets for the penny sale and 1,360 tickets for the 50/50 draw were sold. Farah Shukri won $221.50 in the 50/50 draw.

The City Mission (food bank), 132 King St., St. Catharines, will receive $470.

"The reason we chose the City Mission is because they don't receive any government funding," said Procee.

"They rely on donations," said Fisher, who had the idea for the Penny Sale, where the donations will go and the 50/50 draw.

"We're ecstatic. We went past our goal," said Fisher who was hoping for $300 to $400.

"A big thank you from our group for Mrs. Brown for pulling the numbers," said Fisher.

"We want to thank the security guards for letting us use the storage and Indu Pouli. She's not even in our group and she sold so many tickets for us. She just kept selling and selling," said Gagnon.

The group would also like to give a special thanks to everyone who donated and bought tickets.

Amina Maurhtar (left) and Donna Gagnon, two of the organizers of the Penny Sale, watch as students chose the prizes they want to win.

Photo by Jennifer Turner

Human Resources Management enrolment breaking records

By RON WOLF
Staff Writer

The Human Resources Management (HRM) program at Niagara College is one of the oldest programs in the school and its enrolment is breaking records.

HRM started when Niagara College opened in 1967.

"The student enrolment in the program has been growing steadily for the last five or six years. We now have the highest enrolment that we had in the history of the program. The program is very viable right now," said Nelson J. Lacroix, co-ordinator, Human Resources Management, School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

"The first-year students take an overview of four speciality areas," said Lacroix.

They all take general business courses, fundamental courses including: Business Mathematics and English.

The students all receive introductions to four special areas which include HRM, Operations Management, Accounting and Marketing Management.

"At the end of the first year the students will be asked to select from one of those four areas. At the end of the second semester the students that choose HRM come into my program. They will then specialize from term three to six," said Lacroix.

"There is an organization called The Human Resources Organization of Ontario that has been granted legal status to present professional designation much as the engineers have a professional designation," said Lacroix.

"We now have that in HRM. Our curriculum covers all of the core courses that allow our students to qualify upon graduation for the certificate in HRM that's awarded by the governing body.

"Our students are prepared to become members of that professional organization and have the first level designation that's based on academic requirements."

The students are able to transfer their credits to universities both in Canada and the United States. It will depend on what the student's final grades are and what university they choose, said Lacroix.

American universities are very generous, he said.

"The Niagara University gives about 91 credits out of 120 required, assuming you get good grades, Bs or better for the courses you are seeking exemptions for."

Canadian universities are not as generous, but that's changing.

Niagara College is working on establishing some better links with Brock University, in St. Catharines, said Lacroix.

He feels Brock is not as generous to Niagara College graduates as we are to their graduates when it comes to accepting them for our programs and competition may be a reason for that.

The HRM program includes a co-op placement in the fourth to sixth semesters, said Lacroix.

"The students go to work in the field where they utilize some of thier skills.".

Kerry Voth, a 35 year-old student, found the course difficult at the beginning.

"I think by the time I got in the third year it started to get more specific. It was hard for me to get to the meat of it," said Voth.

"I was asked to come in to do a productivity study at one of the plastic companies in Welland. I was brought in as an independent because they (the company) have a union and I had to be able to work with the union and the working staff, supervisors and managers. It was a unique situation."

Voth has goals for her life, one of them having her own business.

"One of the goals I have is to have my own consulting business. It's been very helpful taking the course to move into that direction because of taking the Entrepreneurship program."

Voth has been to university many times and it was a big decision for her whether to go back or go to college.

"I decided that college would be more practical," she said.

Voth has confidence in Lacroix and the other instructors who teach the program.

"He knows his stuff and he takes a real professional attitude. I wind up with more information because of the teachers that they bring, because they are experienced in the field. And that has been real helpful."

HRM hasn't been affected by the government cutbacks and the students receive a Business diploma upon graduating, said Lacroix.

Hospital restructuring is looming on the horizon

By BEN FISHER
Staff Writer

Hospital restructuring looming on the horizon has one health care provider worried.

Nancy Nero, a registered nurse for the past 11 years at Welland County General Hospital, says she is concerned with the way Premier Mike Harris proposes to get Ontario's finances in order. She deals with patients in the surgical unit.

"It depends on how far (the amalgamations) go. Port Colborne and Welland hospitals already share one board and one chief executive officer," says Nero. Smooth operations after restructuring boils down to seniority bumping rights, says Nero.

"Layoffs will set precedents. When Windsor, Ont., amalgamated it was very chaotic. After the Windsor issue was resolved, people lost their jobs," states Nero. You have to be specialized "in a certain area if you hope to keep your job."

The idea of moving health care providers out of traditional hospital settings isn't feasible, according to Nero. "The Victorian Order of Nurses are having problems, especially with high pay rates. Private companies coming in have high rates. The job outlook in this province is poor. You have to go out of state." Nurses must pass state boards in order to be able to work in the United States.

The ultimate result from the Harris cutbacks is seeing the patients suffer, says Nero. "Patients won't be having surgery in their town. They're not having anything offered locally."

The Niagara District Health Council is compiling a draft report outlining which services should be eliminated or where specific services should be offered. The report, which is expected to be in the minister of health's hands late this year, is being detailed by a Community Visioning committee. The committee consists of a variety of health care providers and consumers.

Nero believes Harris's idea of implementing user fees is a good idea. "There is no way around amalgamation. Harris says to cough up more money. Implementing user fees might be a good idea. Frequent users, let them pay," Nero says. She describes frequent users as those who go to emergency rooms for minor ailments. These ailments would be handled more efficiently and cost-effectively by a physician in private practice. On the other hand, Nero says, "Somebody who is in a chronic care facility can't afford to pay the high costs (of long-term health care)."

Frequent staff meetings at Welland County General Hospital have kept staff members informed about changes in the health system. "Hospital administration have let them them (staff) know exactly where they stand regarding changes. Everybody is saddened, not shocked. They saw it was coming. We've been prepared since last summer," says Nero.

Welland General saw a five per cent cut in funding this year, followed with an incremental one per cent decrease in each of the next two years. "It's bad, really bad now.

"In a way, the community will benefit because hospitals will not be closed. We're doing this to save our necks. There will be a community-based hospital system. We are trying to say we can do this (community-basing) instead of closing all hospitals.

"We had a health care system that was everybody's envy. Now we're losing it.

"Eleven years ago I thought the medical system would never be touched. It's such a vital part of life. What's going to happen when the year 2000 hits? Is that when privatization of hospitals will be introduced?"